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15 May 1980

NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT

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CONTENTS

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

PLO Delegate Condemns West's Delay on Palestine Issue (LE MONDE, 24 Apr 80)	1
Bahraini Papers Comment on Abortive Rescue Attempt (Editorial; various sources, various dates)	2
'GULF MIRROR' Comments 'DAILY NEWS' on 'Disaster'	
Bahraini Weekly Discusses Gravity of Mideast Situation (Editorial; AL-ADWA', 26 Apr 80)	4
'AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ' Discusses U.S. Hostages in Iran (Editorial, Ahmad Kamil; AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ, 27, 29 Apr 80)	6
Hostages' Release Rescue Attempt Motives	

AFGHANISTAN

Commemoration of Red Army Day (Editorial; ANIS, 24 Feb 80)	9
---	---

IRAN

Shi'ites Being Persecuted in Iraq (KEYHAN, 17 Apr 80)	12
Thousands Expelled Many Executed	
Kurdish Autonomy Discussed by Qasemlu During Interview (Abdol Rahman Qasemlu Interview; L'UNITE, Feb 80)	17

CONTENTS (Continued)

Minister Describes Expansion of Telephone Network (JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, 8 Apr 80)	24
Visa Needed for Travels to France, Iran Reciprocally (Editorial; NAMEYE RUZ, 16 Apr 80)	28
Bulgarian Reporter Describes Situation in Iran (Yavor Tsakov; POGLED, 7 Apr 80)	30

IRAQ

New Projects Throughout Country To Celebrate Revolution Anniversary (AL-THAWRAH, 6, 7, 9 Feb 80)	33
Agricultural Projects	
Development, Housing, School Projects	
More Development, Health, School Projects	
Briefs	
Television Cooperation With Czechoslovakia	40
Industrial Projects	40

ISRAEL

Opposition to Camp David Accords Described by West Bank Mayor (Bassam al-Shak'a; AL-QABAS, 6 Mar 80)	41
Greek Parliament Urged To Investigate Reports of Israeli Agents Operating in Greek Ports and Airports (Muhammad Mustafa Mahmud; AL-QABAS, 4 Mar 80)	45
Thorough Investigation of Murder of Jewish Man in Hebron Demanded (Editorial; HATZOFEH, 5 Feb 80)	48
Hakibbutz Hadati Debates Challenges for Youth (Editorial; HATZOFEH, 19 Feb 80)	50
Opening of Embassies in Egypt, Israel Discussed (Editorial; HATZOFEH, 19 Feb 80)	52
Policy of Active Jewish Settlement in Arab Areas Urged (Editorial; HATZOFEH, 11 Feb 80)	54
Amendment to Law of Anatomy, Pathology Needed (Editorial; HATZOFEH, 11 Feb 80)	56

CONTENTS (Continued)

Traffic Accidents--Who Is To Be Blamed (MA'ARIV, 3 Apr 80)	58
New Settlement Established on Mount Kabir (Editorial; HATZOFEH, 5 Feb 80)	61
X-Ray Workers on Strike (HA'ARETZ, 3 Apr 80)	63
Israel Firm on Jerusalem (Editorial; HATZOFEH, 3 Apr 80)	66
Agriculture--Coming of Age (MA'ARIV, 3 Apr 80)	67

JORDAN

Afro-Arab Solidarity Urged To Ensure Peace, Prosperity (Editorial; AL-RA'Y, 28 Mar 80)	70
Arabs Urged To Consider Time Factor (Editorial; AL-RA'Y, 27 Mar 80)	71
Top Military Men Discuss Flag Service Law (Muhammad al-'Abbadi; AL-RA'Y, 29 Mar 80)	73
Five-Year Plan for Ministry of Social Development Prepared (AL-RA'Y, 28 Mar 80)	77
Problems of Protected Agriculture Discussed (Jamil Zayid Hatar; AL-RA'Y, 28 Mar 80)	78

LEBANON

American Comments on Afghanistan Appraised, Castigated ('Awad Sha'ban; AL-SAFIR, 18 Mar 80)	80
Zionist Pressure Blamed for Inconsistency in U.S. Policy (Michel Abu Jaudah; AL-NAHAR, 5 Mar 80)	83
Press Union Chief Demands Opening of Combat Against Israel (AL-SAFIR, 16 Mar 80)	85
Probability of Resumption of Civil War Explored (Walid al-Nuwayhid; AL-SAFIR, 19 Mar 80)	88
Call for National Accord by Deferring Discussion of Details (Emil Khuri; AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI, 10-16 Mar 80)	91

CONTENTS (Continued)

Political Infighting in Arab Labor Organization Reported (AL-SAFIR, 15 Mar 80)	94
Modification of Bashir al-Jumayyil's Position Explored (May Kahhalah; AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI, 10-16 Mar 80)	96
Poor Economic Situation of Country in 1979 Reviewed (AL-NIDA' AL-USBU'I, 16 Mar 80)	99
Algeria Seeks Change in Trade Agreement With Lebanon (AL-NAHAR, 19 Mar 80)	102
Fruit Exports for 1979 Near Pre-War Level (AL-NAHAR, 16 Mar 80)	104
Nine Persons Die From Spoiled Bread (AL-NIDA', 13 Mar 80)	105
Wheat Agreement Signed With Canada (AL-NAHAR, 18 Mar 80)	107
Briefs	
Armenians Urge National Unity	109
Urgent Laws Presented	109

MOROCCO

Ben Seddik Presents Report to UMT Congress (L'AVANT-GARDE, 29 Mar 80)	110
Energy, Mining Research Minister on Energy Plans (LA VIE ECONOMIQUE, 28 Mar 80)	114
Ali Yata Rebuts French Communists on Military Aid (Editorial, Ali Yata; AL-BAYANE, 28 Mar 80)	117

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Soviet-Backed Leadership Change Seen as Possible (Cigdem Komurcuoglu; AYDINLIK, 24 Apr 80)	119
---	-----

TUNISIA

Closer Relations With PRC Encouraged (LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE, 20, 21 Mar 80)	121
Bourguiba Praises Relations	
International Political Questions Examined	
Broad Horizons in Cooperation	
Mohamed Ennaceur in Peking	

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

PLO DELEGATE CONDEMNS WEST'S DELAY ON PALESTINE ISSUE

LD281023 Paris LE MONDE in French 24 Apr 80 p 9

[Unattributed report: "Mr Souss Rules Out Possibility of a Referendum Preceding the Creation of a Palestinian State"]

[Text] On Tuesday, 22 April, PLO delegations started a series of visits to European capitals to put to the various governments a plan for settling the Middle East situation. However, the exact terms of the Palestinian proposals are giving rise to some confusion.

In Strasbourg PLO leader Khalid al-Hasan had stated that the plan made provision for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories followed by a 1-year period under UN administration during which a referendum would be organized. However, two important PLO members, Mrs Salwa Abu Khadrah and Mr Muhammad Khalifah, and PLO representative in Paris Ibrahim Souss stated that there was no question of holding such a referendum. The United Nations would hand the liberated regions over to the PLO and parliamentary elections could then be organized, they stated at a press conference.

"The word referendum is out of the question and has never been used. It was merely stated that the PLO may or may not wish to organize elections once its authority has been established," Mr Souss said.

In addition Mr Souss criticized the "recent procrastination of France and other European countries at the UN Security Council," which show "that the search for a settlement" (in the Middle East--LE MONDE note) has not been as earnest as we had hoped." Recalling President Giscard d'Estaing's statements on self-determination during his recent visit to the Gulf States, he said that "there has been some regression since then."

"We hope," he added, "that these statements will be followed by a clear stance on the need to create a Palestinian state and to recognize the PLO as the representative of the entire Palestinian people."

"We would like to raise the question of Mr Yasir 'Arafat visiting France but we cannot do so until France recognizes the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole representative."

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

BAHRAINI PAPERS COMMENT ON ABORTIVE RESCUE ATTEMPT

'GULF MIRROR' Comments

GF260720 Manama GULF MIRROR in English 26 Apr-2 May 80 p 6

[Editorial: "As the Americans Lick Their Wounds Over Iran Disaster"]

[Text] The full impact of the abortive American attempt to rescue the hostages in Teheran has yet to be felt, but even now it is clearly a personal disaster for President Carter. He has acknowledged personal responsibility, as he must, and is no doubt suffering acute embarrassment over an operation that foundered before it had even gotten properly underway.

Such daring adventures are fraught with danger and risks and have to succeed swiftly and totally to be seen as anything but ill-judged.

There is no room for failure and this one not only reflects on the prestige of the president and the flagging credibility of the United States, but also on the capability of the U.S. armed forces.

The justification or otherwise for the American attempt could be long argued over. Diplomatic efforts were seen by the Americans to have failed, though some of its allies feel that the latest and toughest moves on sanctions had not been given time to work.

The United States had itself said that force would be used only as a last resort. The apparent intransigence of the Iranian Government, however, was obviously the influencing factor.

Nevertheless, the failure of the operation can do little but exacerbate an already intractable situation now clearly back at minus square one with the Americans licking their wounds, the Iranians outraged and doubly alerted to new rescue attempts, and the American public soon to be pushing to avenge both a blow to national pride and to what may be seen as the increased plight of the hostages.

The Americans are unlikely to strike in the same way twice; they may be reluctant to even strike at all. Which leaves only the diplomatic, and probably safer, channels to pursue the release of the hostages, who must themselves feel particularly vulnerable at this time.

'DAILY NEWS' on 'Disaster'

GF260721 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 26 Apr 80 p 6

[Editorial]

[Text] What a disaster. It is incredible that America botched up its hostage grabbing raid the way it did. The damage that has been done, the capital that can be made, is staggering.

The reverberations of this day will go round the world for a long time to come.

The only possible explanation and justification for such a grab is that it must be successful. And the only way to fail is to fail gloriously--not because of a pile-up between two planes like a road accident with careless drivers.

To say that President Carter and America as a whole has egg on their face is like describing the monsoons as damp.

The effect on America's stock must be to plunge to rock bottom and President Carter, enjoying a crest-of-the-wave popularity recently in the U.S., had better catch up on his reading of peanut cultivation, for this could cost him the election.

What the position must be of the poor hostages in the aftermath of this bungle does not bear thinking about.

CSO: 4820

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

BAHRAINI WEEKLY DISCUSSES GRAVITY OF MIDEAST SITUATION

GF261111 Manama AL-ADWA' in Arabic 26 Apr 80 p 1

[Editorial]

[Text] The general situation in the Middle East is extremely explosive. It poses the threat of regional wars--and if U.S.-Soviet relations deteriorate, there is a danger of a global war.

In the Gulf area, the possibility of a U.S.-Iranian clash has increased. Any attack by the United States against Iran to rescue the hostages or the imposition of a naval blockade of Iranian ports will ignite the powderkeg. This has been amply demonstrated by the recent abortive U.S. operation to rescue the hostages, an attempt that will exacerbate the situation.

There is no doubt that if the situation between the United States and Iran involved the use of force it would lead to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz to shipping. Consequently, either as a result of an Iranian initiative, or as a result of the shipowners' fear for their property, shipping to the Gulf would be halted.

We have already referred in the past to this possibility, the likelihood of which is increasing daily. Once again, we would like to note the inconvenience that the closure of the Strait of Hormuz would cause the Gulf area and the crisis it would generate. Neither Europe, the United States, nor Japan would be greatly affected by a suspension of the flow of oil to them for a period of 2 or 3 months or even a year, as they have strategic oil reserves. However, the Gulf states would suffer a great deal, because they import wheat, sugar, vegetables and meat through the Strait of Hormuz.

If we turn northward, we find that the cold war between Iraq and Iran is intensifying and is about to turn into a hot war that is neither in the interest of the Arabs nor the Iranians. At the same time, Israel is exerting intense pressure on UNIFIL--pressure that is being exerted directly and through its hireling, Major Sa'd Haddad, pressure that has taken the form of provocations and assassinations--to compel countries that contributed forces to UNIFIL to withdraw their forces. Israel will

thus have a free hand to grab more Arab territory and seize the entire Al-Litani River. This pressure may also make the Lebanese more desperate and consequently more likely to accept any solution, even though such solutions may entail Lebanon's partition and dismemberment.

There are many questions being asked. The current disturbances in Syria, the criminal attack on the Mecca mosque in Saudi Arabia, the repercussions of this aggression and the various media attacks against the Saudi regime--bearing in mind the close ties between Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states--were not spontaneous or coincidental. They were the result of concerted and premeditated action. Is the outbreak of clashes in the Berber capital of Tizi Ouzou in southern Algeria, in which 400 people have been injured, also a coincidence. What is behind the reemergence of the same old French imperialist ploy to revive Berber nationalism, a ploy that failed and was buried in Morocco and Algeria since its independence 20 years ago?

What is behind these suspicious moves and strange trends that are far divorced from the concept of a united family and loyalty to and love for the homeland that are being fabricated here and there from time to time? These questions and strange attitudes make it imperative to pursue a united Arab strategy that places the Arab nation's interests above all personal considerations and interests and individual or party gains. This strategy must be adhered to by all Arab states--states that will survive only by faithfully pursuing this united strategy.

Thus, if the superpowers can ignore their pride for the sake of their interests--and they do not share the common ties of language, nationalism or religion--what is to prevent us from regaining our unity and overcoming this ordeal? Who knows, what may appear to be impossible may become possible to achieve. What happened between Egypt and Israel is strange and perverse and was it not thought impossible? Why shouldn't the situation be corrected? Everything is possible if the Arab leaderships respond to the call of their national duties and become aware of what is being hatched against them in the dark.

CSO: 4802

'AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ' DISCUSSES U.S. HOSTAGES IN IRAN

Hostages' Release

GF271455 Manama AKBAR AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 27 Apr 80 p 1

[Editorial by editor in chief Ahmad Kamil: "A Mistake Should Not Be Corrected by Another Mistake"]

[Text] Once again, the United States is disregarding its friends--all its friends, both in the East and the West--and subjecting them to the danger of war, to a devastating conflagration that would put an end to all hopes of attaining peace and resolving the 5-month-old hostage crisis.

The United States recently announced a plan to blockade Iran in order to force it into releasing the hostages. It has also asked, indeed pressed, its European friends to follow its example. Ten European states have complied and declared an economic and political blockade of Iran, and Japan has followed suit.

The United States has also recently announced that it is asking its friends to grant bases or facilities for its rapid intervention forces in order to end the hostage crisis.

Not long ago, the United States declared that the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan is a threat to world peace and a direct threat to the security of the Gulf and the states bordering Afghanistan, offered 400 million dinars [as published] worth of arms to Pakistan and reopened its bases in Turkey.

Suddenly, the president of the United States has announced the failure of a military plan to rescue the hostages--a plan that almost sparked a war and destroyed all efforts and hopes for a peaceful solution to a crisis that has preoccupied world public opinion and created a climate of tension in the Gulf area.

U.S. President Jimmy Carter has said his plan was a humanitarian attempt to rescue 50 innocent hostages. Only God knows what--if the plan had succeeded--the casualties and repercussions would have been, what kind of explosion would have erupted in the entire region and what harm would have been inflicted on it.

Are not the threats to occupy and blockade the entire Gulf region enough? Are not the hints by the United States and Iran that they will close the Strait of Hormuz to international and Gulf shipping and stop all oil from passing through it enough? Isn't the terrible whirlpool that has engulfed the area and the lack of stability it has been suffering since the detention of the hostages enough?

If the detention of the hostages for such a long period is an inhumane act, it should not be dealt with in a more inhumane, damaging and dangerous manner.

The whole world was astounded when the United States revealed its abortive plan. We very much hope that the world will be astounded once again when Muslim Iran announces the release of the hostages, thus thwarting the hue and cry that is being raised by the United States and its threat to intervene and send its fleets to our calm and secure gulf.

Rescue Attempt Motives

BF291255 Manama AKHBAR AL-KHALLJ in Arabic 29 Apr 80 p 1

[Editorial by editor in chief Ahmad Kamal: "The Abortive Attempt-- A Message From Carter"]

[Text] With the announcement of Cyrus Vance's resignation, which he tendered 7 days ago (perhaps on the same day the Iranian desert operation was approved) and was made public yesterday, real cracks have begun to appear in U.S. President Carter's administration. It is the first practical result of the abortive adventure to rescue the hostages.

Whatever has been said or published about the operation, it continues to be shrouded with much ambiguity and has given rise to many questions.

Reactions so far have been mild in contrast to the size of the operation, the importance of the United States and the magnitude of the possible terrible results. Reactions within the United States have not been clear at all. There has been both condemnation of and support for the operation, even from opponents of the U.S. administration and President Carter's rivals. As for his friends in the West, they are still in an unenviable state of shock. They are still speculating apprehensively about this operation and its results, not only for Iran or the Arab Gulf but also for the entire world.

In examining what has been published about this operation we find that--despite the fact that many of the details are incomplete--many questions come to mind. For instance, why was the operation's failure announced so quickly, and by President Carter himself, when no one knew about it, not even the Iranians? Was the operation revealed in that manner and its failure exaggerated in an attempt to cover up an even larger operation in the future, or was the initial operation on a much larger scale than has been revealed? Were the reports on the number of Hercules aircraft

true or were there more than has been reported? Did the aircraft take out everyone who landed or were some of them infiltrated into Iran for a future surprise strike? Is it true that the purpose of the operation was to rescue the hostages, or was there a much greater purpose? If we allow ourselves to keep asking such questions we will not be able to reach a decision, and the question will be endless. However, among all the possibilities there is one that is more plausible than the others.

What has been published and said about the operation may be all there is to it. It may not have been larger than what has been announced. The U.S. President may have wanted it to fail. This may have been part of the original plan for the operation! Perhaps. If this is so, then the U.S. president has been able to convey his message to the Iranian leaders, his friends in the West and the entire world. The gist of the message is that the United States can fight and use military force whenever it pleases, wherever it pleases and in whatever manner it sees fit. Therefore, and this is also part of the message, the Iranian must learn from this lesson and the friends of the United States must hasten to cooperate with it in intensifying the blockade against Iran. The U.S. President's message is postscripted: We will do what we want and let our friends and the world go to hell.

In conclusion, we cannot but reiterate our hope that our neighbor and friend, Muslim Iran, will deprive Carter of any argument or justification, thwart his plans and release the hostages.

CSO: 4802

COMMEMORATION OF RED ARMY DAY

Kabul ANIS in Dari 24 Feb 80 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text] Sixty-two years ago, a revolution took place in the biggest country in the world which launched the history of a new era, a turning point in the international labor movement, and expedited the victorious spread of the national liberation movements on a worldwide scale.

This huge, historical resurgence of epic-making mankind removed the heavy burden of Imperialism and its manifestations from the shoulders of the Soviet people and placed the bright torch of the purposeful, sound revolutionary struggle above the path of all of the hardworking people of the world.

The politicians and rulers of the Imperialist countries who found their futile idea about the immortality of the Imperialist systems thwarted by the Great October Revolution cooperated and collaborated with those who had been ousted as a result of the revolution and they launched useless and extensive efforts against the newly-formed government of the Soviets.

The Soviet Government established a brave army during the first year after the revolution to protect the gains of the Great October Revolution and to preserve the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. Since this army had been raised from among the people, it chose the path and goals of the people and matured in the conflict of domestic and world events and, by defeating the aggressive attacks of the 14 Imperialist countries, it proved its strength, durability, and worth regarding the defense of peace, freedom and social progress.

The army whose slogan was "The full victory of the October Revolution guarantees social justice and peace" fought not only for its people and country during the early years of its establishment, but, based on high Internationalist spirit, in collaboration with the peoples of other countries that had been crushed under the harsh despotism of Fascism, it courageously broke the chains of bondage and brought freedom.

That is why the brave Soviet soldier today has a place in the heart and soul of the peace-loving nations of the world and, in recognition of the valuable role which the Soviet Army played in the routing of Fascism, it is commemorated and honored in the countries which it has rescued from the captivity of this blood-sucking monster, and the people of those countries attach great importance to these ceremonies.

The Soviet Liberation Army which, during the 62 years of its just and courageous battle as the guardian of the gains of the Great October Revolution, with strong revolutionary character, enjoyment of progressive knowledge, and high internationalist spirit, on the anti-Imperialist battle fields and in the struggles for social justice, and in accordance with the ideals and demands of the peoples of the world, rushed with open arms to the assistance of the progressive movements and the oppressed and subjugated nations of the world. Today, too, it is effectively fulfilling its duties regarding guaranteeing peace and social justice and neutralizing the aggressive and criminal actions of Imperialism.

The unstinting assistance given by segments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to frustrate the aggressive motives of American Imperialism and its Chinese and Pakistani allies toward our country is evidence of the revolutionary and humanitarian goals of the Soviet Union, and this solidarity cannot be interpreted as anything but service to the desire for peace and respect for the rights and human nobility of people who are subject to Imperialist aggression.

Since the USSR's limited military assistance to the people of our country frustrated the aggressive plans and motives of American Imperialism and its partners in crime for enslaving the free peoples in the area, they shamelessly misinterpreted the Soviet Union's humane assistance, which was provided based on selflessness, cooperative neighborliness, and the U.N. Charter; tried to turn the people of the world against that; and embarked on strengthening their military bases on the pretext of the so-called "presence of the Soviet Army in Afghanistan."

The American military presence in the Indian Ocean and the torrential flood of various types of American weapons into Pakistan are direct threats to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and freedom of the countries of the area and world-devouring American Imperialism is attempting to cover that up by referring to the presence of limited forces of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan; but, this can never conceal the inflammatory and aggressive actions of the United States of America.

The hand of aggression of America and its Chinese and Pakistani allies backing the so-called "Afghan refugees" for intervention in the affairs of our country has been so blatant that they cannot sway public opinion of the peace-loving and informed people of the world by citing the "presence of the Soviet Army in Afghanistan."

The Soviet soldier, who is the messenger of freedom and the true defender of peace and social justice, today, along with our country's brave Army, sits in the hot trench of the struggle against the swift aggressions of the United States of America and its Chinese and Pakistani partners in crime and we, in recognition of this brotherly and revolutionary solidarity, submit our unending thanks to the people and liberation army of the Soviet Union and congratulate them and the peoples of the world on the 62nd Anniversary of the establishment of the Soviet Army.

8514

CSO: 4906

IRAN

SHI'ITES BEING PERSECUTED IN IRAQ

Thousands Expelled

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 17 Apr 80 p 12

[Article: "Governor of Qasr-e Shirin Citing Expellees: Iraq Will Probably Expell up to Two Million Shi'ites"]

[Text] Iraq intends to make Shi'ites a minority through expulsion.

Twenty-seven expelled women gave birth.

Qasr-e Shirin--Dispatched KEYHAN correspondent: 'Ata'ollah Moradi, governor of Qasr-e Shirin, told KEYHAN correspondent in a special interview that if new relocation camps for expellees are not established in other parts of the country we will be faced with a disastrous situation at the border.

He said: "Up until now, those expelled through the Khosravi and Sumar borders were sent to the camps in Khorramabad, Lorestan, and Azna; but these camps have announced that they cannot hold any more. Due to the unabated flood of expellees coming across the Khosravi and Sumar borders and the realization that caring for them at the border is not to our advantage, it is unclear how we should handle the present situation."

According to the governor of Qasr-e Shirin, two days ago the number of expellees at the Sarabgarm camp reached over 7,000, of which a total of 3,800 have been sent to the Azna camp.

Concerning the total number of expellees sent to other areas he said: "The number exceeds 15,000."

Citing a few of the expellees, the governor said: "They say that the number of expellees will exceed two million and that Iraq's Ba'ith government intends to make the Shi'ites a minority in Iraq. Therefore, the problem is extremely serious and must be given thoughtful attention."

The governor said: "Our rescue workers at the Khosravi and Sumar borders move from place to place along the border picking up the expellees and transporting them in light vehicles such as jeeps and pickup trucks to the Khosravi and Sumar centers to be sent later to other camps. They are often hungry and thirsty or sick and wounded. Thusfar, 120 wounded have been treated at mobile hospital units by teams sent to the camps.

"We have also had 27 births at the Khosravi and Sumar borders; 2400 persons have been treated on an outpatient basis and 41 persons have been hospitalized in Qasr-e Shirin's mobile hospital and quarantine."

The governor of Qasr-e Shirin reemphasized the establishment of camps throughout the country saying: "This is a major problem and until this problem is resolved we can expect catastrophe at the borders."

Thanking the people of Esfahan, Hamadan, Kermanshah, Qom, Khosravi, and Qasr-e Shirin who have responded to the urgent requests of Qasr-e Shirin's governor's office and have cooperated in relocating, transporting, and providing essential comforts for the expellees, he said: "Thusfar, many citizens as well as the army and gendarmerie have sent vehicles to Qasr-e Shirin which have transported expellees to Khorramabad and Asna. In addition, hundreds of busses and minibusses hired by the governor's office have been transporting expellees from Qasr-e Shirin and Sarabgarm to other places day and night.

"Also, the government offices of Qasr-e Shirin, Khosravi, Qasr-e Pol-e Zahab, as well as those of the Holy Campaign for Reconstruction [Jahad-e saزندegi], the Boy Scouts, the offices of education, and the people have volunteered their full cooperation with us."

The governor and other employees of the governor's office work round the clock picking up expellees and transporting them to other camps.

Many Executed

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 17 Apr 80 p 3

[Article: "Special KEYHAN Correspondent Interview With Iraqi Political Refugees in Iran: 72 Supporters of Ayatollah Sadr Executed by Firing Squad in Iraq"]

[Text] Sar-e Pol-e Zahab--Special KEYHAN correspondent: 15 military and civilian Iraqi youths crossed the border into Iran the day before yesterday seeking political asylum.

The special KEYHAN border correspondent who filed this report interviewed 5 of these Iraqi youths at the border; prior to this correspondent's contact with this group, 10 of them had been transported to another location. The five remaining consisted of an Iraqi army deserter, three Iraqi high school students, and an Iraqi junior college graduate.

Ba'd Mirhasan Ya'qub, a 21-year old resident of Baghdad, told the KEYHAN correspondent that he had been distributing handouts opposing the Iraqi regime when a few of his friends were captured and executed. He said: "I had no other choice but to escape because I would have been executed if I had been captured. I was also working with the Islamic Call Party [Mezb-e Da'vat-e Eslami], under the leadership of Ayatollah Mohammad Baqer Sadr."

He added: "I was active in this party and together with my friends we would distribute handouts and participate in demonstrations against the Ba'th regime. On Iraq's Celebration Day, following the demonstrations against the Ba'th regime, a number of people were killed and 72 supporters of his holiness Ayatollah Sadr were also captured and executed by firing squad. Three of my friends were executed, and I could not stay in Iraq any longer."

Mirhasan Ya'qub also said: "At the present time, the situation in Iraq is such that anyone who does not have an identity card, whether Arab, Kurd, Iranian, Christian, or Shi'ite, will without a doubt be expelled to Iran. The Ba'ths intimidate the Shi'ites, expell Shi'ite students from schools, keep everything for themselves, and the non-Ba'ths are ridiculed."

Sedqi Saleh Mehdi, a high school graduate military draftee and a Shi'ite from Baghdad, also spoke to KEYHAN. He had a

three-day pass stamped 11 Apr 80. He explained the reason for and the manner of his escape as follows:

"Ayatollah Mohammad Baqer Sadr had announced in his speeches that the people of Iraq should support the Islamic revolution of Iran in order to overthrow the Ba'th regime like they did the traitor shah. Along with my brother Shi'ites I used to chant 'God is great' in demonstrations, but because I was a soldier I was recognized sooner. Essentially in Iraq anyone who is a Shi'ite, a follower of Mohammad Baqer Sadr, who cooperates with the Islamic Call Party will be executed as soon as he is arrested. For this reason, I asked for a three-day pass and made my way to Iran through Baghdad, Dayaleh, Ya'qubeh, Baladruzmandi, and the border of Sumar and reported to the authorities. Because I was afraid of the Iraqi officials, I slept for two nights in the mountains along the Iranian border. Also, I lost my way one time and just wandered around. Finally I reached one of the Iranian gendarmerie posts." Concerning the Iraqi army, this refugee said: "If the Iraqi army fights Iran, the Shi'ite soldiers and officers will lay down their arms and desert. There is an absolute oppressor-oppressed relationship in the Iraqi army and orders are carried out only by force. In the last few months hundreds of soldiers have deserted. In the recent skirmishes in the Sumar area, I saw a soldier who dropped his weapon and ran away but was shot to death by the Ba'ths."

He also said: "The Iraqis have brought the Ba'th soldiers to the border because they are the only ones they can trust. Non-Ba'ths and Shi'ites are mostly imprisoned in the barracks. The Ba'th soldiers and the Iraqi army have a more comfortable life. There is obvious discrimination between Ba'ths and non-Ba'ths." He also said: "In the recent skirmishes in Bavisi, the Iraqis suffered heavy casualties. On the other side of the border I saw the remains of 15 destroyed tanks and cannons. There were also corpses of 150 Iraqi soldiers and 15 wounded who were sent to Khaneqeyn."

About joining the Islamic Call Party, Sedqi Saleh said: "Since this is the party of Imam 'Ali, I joined it." Quoting Ayatollah Sadr he said: "He who follows the Ba'th party is an infidel, and I am not one."

When asked why he was not carrying a party identity card even though he had brought other identity papers, he said: "This is a secret party which does not have party organizations or identity cards yet. We contact other members of the party only during prayers in the mosque, and even then we talk in secret." He said: "In Iraq, Friday prayers are

prohibited. Sheykh Khaz'al Sudani was arrested and executed because he organized Friday prayers." When asked why he had come to Iran and what he expects, he said: "If they give us weapons we will fight the Ba'ths. Many of the Iraqis are not Ba'ths, and they are ready to fight the Ba'ths."

Another youth who agreed to be interviewed by the correspondent was Fowzi Yusefbaba, a 21-year old senior high school student from Baghdad whose father works for the oil company. He said that he is a member of the Mostazafin Party and had crossed the Sumar border with Saleh seeking refuge in Iran for the same reasons.

When asked how long he has been a member of the party, he said: "I have been involved in this party for eight months. Of course, this party is still a secret one." Finally, he said: "We want an Islamic republic."

9593

CSO: 4906

KURDISH AUTONOMY DISCUSSED BY QASEMLU DURING INTERVIEW

Paris L'UNITE in French No 369, Feb 80 pp 7-13

[Report on an interview with Abdol Rahman Qasemlu, Kurdish leader by Jean-Loup Reverier: "The Autonomy of Kordestan Viewed by Its Leader"]

[Text] Jean-Loup Reverier met in Mahabad with Kurdish leader Abdol Rahman Qasemlu, who for the first time talked about the Islamic revolution, autonomy and the multiple problems shaking Iran.

Since last week fighting has been pitting the pasdars (guardians of the revolution) against Pishmargan (Kurdish fighting men) in Kordestan. Concentrated around the cities of Kermanshah, Paveh Bijar and Kamyaran, these battles led to the bombing of cities and villages and resulted in several dozen victims among the combatants as well as among the civilian population.

Last weekend calm reigned in the region of Mahabad, the historical capital of the ephemeral Kurdish Autonomous State (22 January 1946-17 December 1946). The bazaar was filled with its traditional animation; as always the school-children were playing their games of fussball in the central square, right next to the rug merchants. The arms market, open 7 days out of 7 from 0900 to 1800, was not experiencing the feverishness which one might expect. Dozens of men and youths were there discussing the merits of their respective weapons, which are the pride of the Kurds. These arms come either from stocks recovered from the barracks during the revolution or from smuggling across the Turkish and Iranian borders. A Kalashnikov, which is highly prized, sells for F 12,000; a machine pistol, for between F 6,000 and 7,000; a revolver, for from F 4,000 to 6,000 and a lot of bullets, for F 75. This represents an enormous investment for these men, whose region, in the very words of Abdol Rahman Qasemlu, the leader of the PDKI (Democratic Party of Iranian Kordestan), is "under-developed in a country that is itself under-developed."

Forgotten by the shah in his "grand projects," Kordestan, with an essentially agricultural economy, extends from the Soviet border to Khuzestan, Iran's oil province, skirting Iraq and Turkey. In these two countries (as well as in the USSR and, to a lesser degree, in Syria), the Kurdish problem is as

ticklish as in Iran. It is often dealt with by strong action. The most striking thing in this mountainous region, where between 5 and 6 million Kurds live, is the population's human warmth. Open, generous, hospitable to foreigners--except Americans, who are spurned by all Iranians--the Kurds have a language, customs, a culture and a past which distinguish them quite clearly from the other Iranians. Their women are not veiled, wearing brightly colored garments which contrast sharply with chador. Sunnites, the Kurds appreciate the revolutionary role played by the imam but favor the separation of mosque and state. Their religious leader, Sheykh Ezzedine Hosseyni (59) is the only one whose portrait is present almost everywhere, with the late Ayatollah Taleghani a poor second.

Wearing baggy pants, khaki uniforms, wide belts of brightly colored fabric, their chests covered with strings of bullets, daggers in their belts, their arms slung, black and white arabanous coiled around their heads and with large black mustaches across their faces, approximately 6,000 peshmergas control the entire region--to the point where, using Gilles Anquetil's expression in "The Earth Moved in Iran" (Hachette), the region is living "in a time of de facto autonomy."

While visiting a peshmerga base the other afternoon in a mountain village situated between Mahabad and Sardacht I did not detect any particular feverishness. In Mahabad the pasdars are entrenched in a large building apart from the city. In fact they are forbidden to leave it for fear the situation would deteriorate. After sending a telegram to Ayatollah Khomeyni on Saturday in order to alert him to the situation and to ask him to have the pasdars' aggression stopped, Qasemlu contacted Daryush Foruhar, the head of the delegation charged by the government with negotiating with the Kurds after the establishment of the cease-fire set in November.

Born on 22 December 1930 Qasemlu lived outside Iran for a long time, particularly in France and Czechoslovakia. A doctor of political economics, he returned to Iran several months before the revolution. Expressing himself in excellent French, cultivated, a bon vivant, he did not display any particular pessimism last Saturday, even if he took the situation seriously. Very well guarded by his peshmergas, Qasemlu is actively preparing the fourth congress of his party--of approximately 25,000 members, according to him--set for the beginning of March.

L'UNITE: How has the situation in Kordestan evolved since the revolution?

Qasemlu: We participated with the people of Iran in all the battles and demonstrations which took place during the revolution. The Kurdish people expected the realization of three essential goals from the victory. Our struggle at first had an anti-imperialist character. It was especially directed against the American influence in the political, economic and military fields. It then aimed at the establishment of a democratic regime in Iran where liberties would be respected, especially for all popular parties and all organizations without, of course, forgetting the freedom of belief and the freedom of the press. Finally, we would like to be able to ensure our national rights, in other words, autonomy within the framework of the Iranian State.

Unfortunately, after the revolution we very quickly understood that it would not be so easy to attain these objectives. From the start a religious group--which had no doubt participated in the revolution but which was not unaided in doing so--began to monopolize political life and to limit other parties' activities. Gradually the warning signs of a religious dictatorship appeared.

Kordestan, however, remained an exception. The influence of this religious group remained practically nil there, except in the south of our region, in Kermanshah. Because of this, a sort of democracy reigned here, making Kordestan a sort of barricade against the nibbling away at freedoms taking place elsewhere.

Naturally, the reactionaries did not like this, whether they were former servants of the shah who had changed their minds or religious fanatics who accept only their ideology, which, however, has been made obsolete in several fields by the country's political, economic and social development.

All these groups saw a danger to their power in Kordestan. That is why in the months following the revolution plots against us multiplied. Clashes occurred in Sanandadj in March (more than 200 victims on both sides), in Naqadeh in April (approximately 500 victims), then in Marivan (few victims) and finally in Reza'iyeh and Urmia (several dozen victims). In the beginning of August war broke out in Paveh and was inflicted on our people throughout Kordestan. We did everything possible in order to prevent it. As we are still doing today. But those plotting in the central administration, in Qom and Tehran, checked out tentatives.

[Question] Your rapid withdrawal to the Kurdish mountains in August, marked by the abandonment of the cities, has often been presented as a sign of weakness.

[Answer] Indeed, that was misunderstood in the beginning. Some, including generally well informed European journalists, even spoke of a total defeat. But in less than a month we reorganized our military forces and took the offensive. I was back in Mahabad as early as October. Little by little we took control of all our cities. Today, as you have been able to verify, with the exception of the garrisons, the roads and cities of Kordestan are controlled by our troops, that is, the peshmergas. Of course, there are pandars in certain cities. Nonetheless, the military situation has completely changed. This is also true of the political situation. It is important to emphasize this because in August a regular holy war (jihad) was launched against us. From that time on, the overwhelming majority of Iranian public opinion was aware that the Kurdish people were fighting for their legitimate rights and that all the accusations against our people and our party--we were accused of being zionists, separatists, traitors, supported by imperialism, by communism--were false. To the extent that it has now become more difficult to launch a holy war against us. In our declaration immediately after the hostilities, we recalled, moreover, that there are neither winners nor losers in a fratricidal war. But all the same, it was a military and political victory for our people.

[Question] What is the situation in Kordestan at the present time?

[Answer] It is quite bizarre. On one hand there is peace. With sham negotiations. On the other hand, these "negotiations" are going nowhere. We have made no progress.

[Question] What are your relations with the army?

[Answer] During the war we ascertained that the army had been reluctant to fight us several times. Thus, it was normal that in return we would try not to confront it when possible.

[Question] But have you had contacts with officers?

[Answer] In fact it was officers who contacted us. Several times.

[Question] To let you know that they did not want to fight the Kurds?

[Answer] Not only for that but I can say that we now have generally good relations with the army and the officers. We want to avoid mutual fighting. This, I think, is in both parties' interest.

[Question] Do you think that taking into consideration the relations which you say have been established with the army, the latter would disobey the government if it wanted to begin action again against you?

[Answer] I am not able to make predictions...to say exactly what will happen. In any event there will be a change with respect to events that happened previously. This time the army would fight us still less, that is certain. We do not want a new war, which would not be in the interest of either the revolution or of Khomeyni's leadership. But if it is inflicted upon us again, I believe that not only would part of the army not try to fight us but also that many officers and soldiers would be at our sides. I make no secret of the fact that a new war could bring about the fall of the regime. This is something that we, as Kurds and as the PDKI, do not want. Under present conditions, as we have told government representatives and Ayatollah Komeyni's son-in-law, we believe that there is no alternative. Those who could replace Khomeyni's regime are no better, either for the Kurds, the pursuit of the revolution, or for democracy. In our opinion, today only one force is capable of succeeding Khomeyni: the army, supported by the Americans. This inspires us to do everything possible to avoid war and protect the present regime.

[Question] Do you really believe that there is still a real army in Iran?

[Answer] I don't know. What do you mean by a real army? Unquestionably the army, which was an army of mercenaries in the time of the shah, has changed a great deal. There are now many groups in it, from nationalist officers to progressive democratic officers, with those who remain faithful to the shah's regime in between. Without hoping for his return, the latter would like a similar regime.

Because of this political dispersion, it is impossible to speak of a united, well-disciplined army. A few severe blows could even lead to its break-up.

[Question] Isn't the end of American technical assistance limiting the army's intervention capacities?

[Answer] The equipment exists. Of course, according to our information a good half of airplanes, helicopters and tanks are malfunctioning. Sometimes there are shortages of spare parts. But the other half is enough to fight for a long time. In reality the army's present weakness is the officers' state of mind, their morale. They are hostile to what is happening now. From their point of view that is understandable. They were educated, generally in the West (in the United States, in France, etc.) under a regime which accorded them great privileges. They do not like the religious mentality. The restrictions, for example, on music and alcohol, are a burden on them. They have become used to a way of life repudiated by the present regime.

In terms of political conviction, some officers favor a liberal, democratic regime. For their part, the nationalists are taking it very badly that neither the grandeur of Iran nor its past is talked about any more and that to the contrary the 2,500 years of empire are being officially condemned. They do not understand that Islamic solidarity, which transcends the framework of national borders, is being talked about instead. All of these reasons set a large number of officers against the regime.

[Question] You didn't participate in the 25 January election for a lack of a candidate who answers your aspirations. Under these conditions, do you consider Bani-Sadr your president?

[Answer] Of course. We must accept the vote of the majority of the country, even if Bani-Sadr has sometimes made declarations against us, implicating me personally. One cannot be a dreamer in politics. You have to be realistic. This is also true for Bani-Sadr, who should take the country's real situation and the balance of powers into consideration. If he wants to be the president of all the Iranians, he must find a solution to the Kurdish problem. For our part, we are ready to discuss the matter. If like us, those in power display good will, we will be able to find a peaceful solution.

[Question] Would you be ready to give up some of your claims?

[Answer] In politics one must always compromise. But we have essential claims which constitute our minimum program. We are prepared to discuss our claims as 26 points. We are asking for a parliament for Kordestan. They reject it and prefer to talk about a Council. We may accept that...

[Question] You do not make words a matter of conscience.

[Answer] No. Except for one word, "autonomy." We reject the word "self-administration," artificially created by Daryash Foruhar. It has been explained to us that content is the important thing. Of course! But if they accept

this content, why not the form, the word? In summary, here is what we want. First the acceptance of the right to autonomy and its inscription in the Constitution. Second, the unification of Kurdish territory in Iran within one and the same province instead of the four at present. We are ready to hold discussions in order to learn whether such and such a city should be part of the autonomous region or not. Some cities perhaps have a majority of Turks. Let us say that this unification should be realized taking into consideration geographical, historical, economic, ethnic elements and particularly the will of the population...

[Question] By referendum?

[Answer] Why? That is not necessary. If there are different points of view, the problems can be left open for the moment. The third point: with the exception of the army, foreign relations, long-term planning and the monetary system, all other questions should be within the province of the autonomous organs. Fourth, we want autonomous Kordestan, united within the framework of the Iranian State, to elect a Parliament--it could also be called a Council--which would appoint a government (or even an executive committee) charged with administering all internal affairs. Internal security is the fifth point. It should depend on the Kurds themselves. We don't want either pasdars or armed police sent from Teheran here. Our peshmergas are capable of ensuring security. Finally, sixth, Kurdish should finally be recognized in the administration and in the schools as the official language of our region, with the understanding that Persian remains that of all of Iran. Instruction during the first 4 years should be solely in Kurdish.

[Question] What problems has the composition of the Kurdish delegation presented in what you call the sham negotiations?

[Answer] The only time we negotiated, Sheykh Ezzedine Hosseyni presented the members of our delegation, at the same time mentioning the organizations they represented. Mr Sabarian then protested on the pretext that as government representatives they could not hold discussions with the Fedayis (marxist-leninists) and the people from the Komalah (maoists). Because, he said, these groups did not recognize the Islamic Republic. Mr Foruhar then asked for an intermission which has lasted since then. I believe that in reality this was only a pretext. The real cause is that the two plans for Kordestan--the government's and our own--are quite far apart. I have been able to verify that none of the ministers in the delegation understood the real meaning of the national question.

[Question] Apart from the fact that you are the only party truly representative of Kordestan, what distinguishes you from the Fedayis and the Komalah?

[Answer] These two groups claim kinship with marxism-leninism, whereas we are a progressive democratic party which has not pretension to being "the party of the working class." I do not think that a party should be dominated by a single ideology. Practically all PDKI members are peasants (80 percent) and workers. The overwhelming majority of our fighting wing are believers, but there are also marxists within our ranks.

[Question] Would you describe yourself as a marxist?

[Answer] (Laughs.) In general I do not answer personal questions.

[Question] What are your relations with the other ethnic minorities in Iran?

[Answer] A solidarity council has been set up in Teheran. It publishes a bulletin regularly. Just today we went a message from the Kurdish delegation to the Turkmen's conference which just opened. So we have contacts. Unfortunately, the political struggle is less advanced in the other parts of the country than in Kordestan. The ideal would be the establishment of a federal state. Don't forget that the majority of the Iranian population is composed of non-Persians. We spoke of this to the government delegation. But it answered us that the federal system is something difficult and that, moreover, it comes from the West. We then proposed the use of the expression of "the unified republics of Iran." But in vain up to now.

9380

CSO: 4900

IRAN

MINISTER DESCRIBES EXPANSION OF TELEPHONE NETWORK

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 8 Apr 80 p 12

[Article: "The Minister of Post, Telegraph, and Telephone Says by the End of This Year: 150,000 New Telephone Numbers Will Be Issued Throughout the Country"]

[Text] We are trying to produce most of the equipment ourselves; Shiraz Telecommunications Factory will produce 70 percent of the equipment.

By the end of the present year, 150,000 new telephone numbers will be issued to applicants throughout the country, Dr Mahmud Qandi, minister of post, telegraph, and telephone [PTT], announced in an interview with PARS NEWS AGENCY. He said: "We also foresee the possibility that by the end of 1982-83 [1361] we will be able to issue one million telephone numbers to applicants throughout the country. Of course, this depends on certain conditions. One of our basic problems is that contracts for building telephone centers were signed with various contractors before the revolution and for the most part the construction has halted. If the construction problem is not resolved, our plans to issue telephones to the people will not be carried through on schedule. With the cooperation of the Plan and Budget Organization and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, we hope to find solutions to enable us to carry out the plans on time. If the building contractors are unable to complete these projects on schedule, we will have no alternative but to terminate the contracts."

The minister of PTT added: "If the problem of building telephone centers is not resolved, the Telecommunications Company will only be able at the present time to issue 600,000 telephone numbers to applicants within three years. The remaining 400,000 numbers will be issued depending upon the growth of

domestic industries and foreign imports. Also, we must increase manpower and create operational facilities in the provinces so that we can achieve our goal of one million new telephone numbers within the next three years."

Dr Qandi added: "During the last three months of 1979-80 [1358], 35,000 new telephone numbers were issued to applicants throughout the country."

Asked about transferring telephones from one area to another at the present time, the minister of PTT said: "When the technical facilities exist, this can be done more speedily in some areas, but because of the large number of applications for telephone transfers in certain areas, there is a waiting list."

Concerning the development of telephone facilities in relation to existing applications, Dr Qandi said: "The reason most of the applicants are on waiting lists is the lack of telephone centers and a network of telephone cables. To expand the telephone network in responding to the needs of the applicants, both of these, the cable network and telephone centers, must be provided. In the areas where there is a shortage, it is mostly because of a lack of these two factors. Throughout the country we have certain areas with telephone centers but in order to make use of them we also need the cables. In the 1980-81 [1359] accelerated project, we have planned for the expansion of the cable network in these areas."

Concerning the expansion of telecommunications throughout the country, Dr Qandi said:

"For this expansion we need equipment, some of which must be imported from abroad and some of which can be produced domestically. Our present problem is not how to import the equipment but rather the general economic and industrial policy of the country. We have certain projects which require certain steps to be taken. In telecommunications, the basic problem areas include telephone centers, cables, and our radio microwave production handled by the Shiraz Telecommunications Factory which is about 60-70 percent self-sufficient."

Dr Qandi added: "Our policy is to produce domestically as much as possible and to plan our projects in accordance with domestic production in order to both strengthen domestic production and to get closer to our goal of industrial and economic self-sufficiency. Through the use of experts in various industries and universities, we are trying to reduce

the dependence of factories on imported equipment. Presently the Telecommunications Research Center is studying ways to enable us to set up domestic telecommunications industries."

The minister of PTT, concerning the production of electronic telephone units using the facilities of the military electronics industry's factory in Shiraz, said: "We are working with this factory and we have asked them to study their capacity to produce electronic telephone units in Iran; this way, the revival of the electronics industries of the country can begin. We hope that the Iranian electronics industries will begin production, especially of electronic telephone centers." In the continuation of this interview, on the subject of employing foreign experts, Dr Qandi explained that at present essentially all the work of the Telecommunications Company is carried out by Iranian employees. Only about 10 persons of the 32,000 employees are employed by the Telecommunications Company from the Philippines, Japan, and Germany because of their special skills; whereas, before the revolution more than 1000 foreign employees, engineers, and technicians worked for the company. Concerning the omission of telephone wiring charges in Tehran and provincial cities, Dr Qandi then said: "According to an edict from the ministers telephone wiring charges were dropped after the victory of the revolution. Since that decision, no funds have been taken from applicants for this purpose. But in previous years, about 40,000 rials were taken from each applicant to cover this cost. These people are now asking for refunds, but this issue must be taken up by the Office of Financial Affairs of the Telecommunications Company and the general meeting of the shareholders of the company. Presently, in any case, no refunds will be paid before the approval of the proper authorities is given."

Concerning the flood damage to the telephone system in Khuzestan, the minister of PTT said: "Because of water leaks in the telephone cables and because these cables are worn out, the telephones of many customers in Ahvaz, Abadan, and Khorramshahr have been cut off. Through the efforts of the technicians of the Telecommunications Company, these telephone cables will be repaired. This company has also proposed a project to renovate and reconstruct the cables in Ahvaz, Abadan, and Khorramshahr. We hope to set the renovation operations in motion in the near future."

Dr Qandi added: "In the same area, one of the microwave towers near Ahvaz was blown up and destroyed by counterrevolutionary elements. The authorities have taken steps to reinstall it and we hope that within the next two or three weeks

the tower installation operation will be completed and the communication of Abadan and Khorramshahr with other parts of the country will be restored."

In the continuation of this interview concerning speeding up the postal service, Dr Qandi said: "Efforts will be made to speed up domestic and foreign mail through coordinating airline schedules with those of the postal services. Also, the mechanized postal center will begin temporary work soon and after a six-month training period distribution will speed up."

Dr Qandi added: "Many of the letters take a long time to reach their destinations because of the inaccuracies in or illegibility of addresses. We hope that by drawing people's attention to this problem the mail will reach its destination faster. The development of postal services depends to a large extent on the development of roads and highways throughout the country. Hopefully, with the development of roads the postal service will also develop and improve, and letters and packages will arrive at their destinations in the quickest amount of time."

Concerning the publication of new commemorative stamps, the minister of PTT said: "We intend to print stamps with pictures of Islamic and national philosophers, scientists, and personalities to commemorate their anniversaries. In the past commemorative stamps were few, but presently the number has increased several-fold so that people can use these stamps which have cultural and revolutionary aspects." In conclusion, the minister in reference to public telephones being out of order said: "Because of the limitations of the telecommunications facilities and public telephones, we ask the people to cooperate in taking care of these facilities. And if they see anyone who intends to vandalize these telephones or mailboxes, they should report them to the proper authorities."

9593

CSO: 4906

VISA NEEDED FOR TRAVELS TO FRANCE, IRAN RECIPROCALLY

Paris NAMEYE RUZ in Persian 16 Apr 80 p 1

[Editorial]

[Text] According to a statement published yesterday, effective tomorrow, Iranians travelling to France will have to obtain visas from the French Embassy in Tehran prior to their departure, or from one of the French Embassies abroad, and French nationals will need Iranian visas to enter Iran. This decision was reached as a result of the request of the French Government because the French Government wants to have a stronger control over the entry of Iranians into France and their sojourn there.

Ever since the deposed Shah's twin sister Ashraf Pahlavi's son Shahriar Shafiq's assassination, neither the reasons became clear nor were the accused arrested by the French police, and the French Government decided to have a closer supervision over the Iranians who enter France. Thereafter, the Iranians arriving in France were subjected to more questioning by the police at the airports in Paris. In order to carry out this control from its source, the French Government decided to ask Iran for the cancellation or the postponement of the agreement of cancellation of visas between the two countries, and the government of Islamic Republic which also wanted the sojourn of the elements and advocates of the former regime controlled in France, agreed with this suggestion.

Since 1966, i.e. during the past 14 years, no visa was required for the Iranians to enter France and for the French to enter Iran. Iran had signed a similar agreement with other European countries as well. On one hand, with the suspension of the cancellation of visas between Iran and France, it is expected that other European countries will also cancel or suspend their agreements with Iran shortly. On the other hand it is being stated that at least one third of the Iranians presently residing in France without visas, who leave France once every three months and go back for 3 months, either have to leave France (permanently) or will have to obtain permits of sojourn.

The number of Iranians presently residing in France is approximately 30,000, and the suspension of the cancellation of visas between Iran and France will apply to the Iranians who are well off and have the possibility of multiple trips. It should be explained that according to the current French laws, these Iranians will hence forth be gradually facing another problem, i.e. payment of income tax because, according to the international law, everyone should pay his income tax at the place of his residence. In order to obtain permits of sojourn Iranians should present documents (to prove that they have) adequate income, and effective the following year they should pay their income tax on their total income transferred to France as well as the amount remaining outside. This problem may cause more difficulty to the Iranians than the problem of obtaining permits of sojourn.

CSO: 4906

BULGARIAN REPORTER DESCRIBES SITUATION IN IRAN

Sofia POGLED in Bulgarian 7 Apr 80 p 7

[Article by Bulgarian radio correspondent Yavor Tsakov, specially for POGLED, Tehran: "Today in the Islamic Republic"]

[Text] That evening, in Damascus, as I boarded the Iranian Airlines plane, surrounded by a group of women in black, I was not suspecting that my travel to Tehran would offer something more than a "soft landing." That is precisely why I immediately noticed a person with a whitish beard who began by washing his hands and arms to his elbows, took his shoes off and, finally, raised his voice above the noise of the engines. The stewardess explained that this was the beginning of the evening prayer to which the disparate voices of the other believers, 10 kilometers closer to Allah than their earthly brothers were added. I ascribed the intensified feeling that Mohammed had given his supporters not only the religion but a new law for life on earth, in all details, to the enclosed space. The proof that my initial impression was not wrong came 2 days later, when I mixed with the crowd running at automobile speed to Freedom Square on the day of the first anniversary of the proclamation of the Islamic Republic.

A group of young men in green uniforms and girls wearling black scarves, all of them armed, were standing on the side of the road, covered in clouds of dust, preparing themselves to participate in the forthcoming military parade of representative units. It is said that the Koran stipulates that every Moslem has the obligation to ride a horse and fire a bow. Today the Ayatollah Khomeyni is calling the entire people to defend the republic. Metaphorically speaking, the people should learn in the mosques how to fire a rifle and drive a passenger car. At my request the head of the group agreed to pose for a picture against a background of girls in black, similar to those who had surrounded me on the steps of the plane. Now, however, they had a red carnation stuck on their rifles. Subsequently, the parade showed that it was not their training alone that was in its initial stage. Yet, in his speech, President Bani-Sadr pointed out the accuracy of the way earmarked by the Imam, saying that, "We want an armed people but not armed antipeople elements."

When the tens of thousands of people on the square welcomed with shouts of praise Ayatollah Khomeyni's son, Ahmad, and had read his message to the Iranian people on the occasion of the first anniversary of the republic, we recalled with a colleague the eyes of Khomeyni who is revered by millions. We reached the conclusion that in this case it is not a question of any particular emanation because the other ayatollahs as well, sitting on the rostrum and around it, looked with justified pride at everything in front of them. We discussed the fact that the great ayatollahs, one of whom Khomeyni is, are not subordinated to one another, and that some of them were even older than he. Consequently, it was not only the eyes, the high clerical rank, or the age that were prerequisites for popularity and veneration. What was peculiar in this case is that according to Islamic law the great ayatollahs do not become such as a result of elections or any kind of special selection but impose themselves through their actions and activities. It is precisely this quality possessed by Khomeyni that made millions of believers turn to him for help during the period of the Shah's rule, in the hope of a better and more equal future.

That is perhaps why those attending the meeting were listening with particular interest to a part of President Bani-Sadr's speech in which he discussed, even though in the future time, the problems of economics and production to be resolved in the forthcoming months. Bani-Sadr promised measures to surmount unemployment which has reached 3 million people; state monopoly of foreign trade which, in fact, is included in the constitution; lower consumer goods prices for their price increases are taking place regardless of the higher petroleum income and unchanged population earnings. Among others, the president called for not forgetting labor habits, since, in his view, the reason for some economic imperfections over the past year-and-a-half was due to the fact that no work is being done but only consumption."

Again for the sake of justice I was told that the Islamic clergy have received something like an instruction to coordinate the sacred writings with the factual social situation. For example, one of the ayatollahs said that the fingers of a petty thief should not be cut off as long as there are still rich and poor people in the Islamic Republic. Consequently, the penalties for minor violators of the stipulated order shall be postponed for later, until existing disparities have been totally eliminated. Until then order in settlements will be insured jointly by the police and the "Islamic revolutionary committees." Protection from organized external and internal enemies shall be provided by the army and the "Islamic guard." In both areas Islamic ideology has the final word.

Let me mention on this occasion the content of an article which the newspaper BAMDAD ("The Dawn") reprinted from the newspaper "Islamic Revolution," considered the unofficial press organ of the president. The

article clearly earmarked the dangers which face the future steps of the revolution. It is stressed that "the struggle for power among various political groups, together with the appearing conflicting trends in Islamic leadership are a characteristic of the "instability of the social ideology." Regretfully, the article stresses that these two circumstances explain the absence of a "powerful Islamic front."

This is merely one of the reasons for U.S. President Carter to forget, these days, some of his militant statements on the question of the American hostages in Tehran and suggest in his secret messages to the Iranian leaders "political means" for settling existing problems in bilateral relations. The White House has already announced its agreement with the suggestion not to undertake any hostile actions against Iran until the parliament has made its decision on the matter, following its election. According to the local commentators this is a "great political victory won by Iran against the imperialist enemies." For the time being, however, it could not be said with certainty whether or not the words of President Bani-Sadr concerning a "total break of relations with America" are consistent with his true intentions and the extent to which they reflect the political balance which is being sought in relations between countries belonging to the two opposite worlds.

5003

CSO: 2200

NEW PROJECTS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY TO CELEBRATE REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY

Agricultural Projects

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 6 Feb 80 p 6

[Excerpts] The Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform is inaugurating and laying the cornerstone for a number of agricultural projects in various areas of the country which will cost 2.9 million dinars.

The projects which will be inaugurated include a facility for ripening bananas in the governorate of Baghdad, a blacksmith's workshop and office for the Ba'th Farm in al-Musayyib, and 10 warehouses and 100 vehicle shelters in al-(Shahimiyah), a veterinarian clinic building, and [mechanical] milkers for cows and water buffaloes in al-Fadiliyah.

Also included is the inauguration of an agricultural information center, a basin for dipping sheep, a fence for the horticulture station, a garage for the tobacco research laboratories, and a number of service projects in the governorate of Dahuk.

On this occasion the cornerstone will be laid for an establishment for mating horses in the governorate of Salah-al-Din, as well as for a veterinary clinic in the governorate of Babylon, a local superintendent's office in the governorate of al-Najaf, and others in the governorate of Dhi Qar, a joint cooperative in al-Qadisiyah, an establishment for mating horses in al-Ramadi, and an agricultural airfield in the province of Irbil.

The National Agency for Soil and Land Reclamation is inaugurating a number of projects and laying the cornerstone for a number of others, in various regions of the country, which will cost 2.703 million dinars.

The projects which will be inaugurated include a station for pumping drainage water in the Hillah-Diwaniyah project, in the district of 'Afak, and five warehouses for stand-by equipment, workshops for repairing machines belonging to the organization, and a building for an office which will do research, studies, and planning concerning the soil.

The cornerstone will be laid for the construction of six large warehouses for stand-by equipment and a workshop for repairing the organization's machines and vehicles, and a garage for vehicles in the province of Babylon.

Activities of the Vanguard

Comrade Hamid Rashid, member of the command of the al-Qadisiyah branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, will inaugurate the first sports camp for the Vanguard of the governorate of al-Qadisiyah, [and the activities] will go on for 8 days. During the camp, in which 20 local committees will participate, there will be contests in basketball, volleyball, handball, chess, soccer, and cross-country races, for the purposes of selecting the governorate's district teams in these sports.

Those who participate in the [sports] camp will hear lectures concerning national and Arab consciousness, the pursuit of scientific interests, artistic activities, and military training.

The Youth Organization in the [Maysan] governorate has prepared a program to celebrate the 8th anniversary of the glorious February Revolution which will include a number of activities, including the setting up of a number of permanent radio stations to broadcast the slogans of the party and of the revolution and ceremonies for the Vanguard who are going to the Youth Organization, as well as a poetry festival and an art show.

The Youth [Organization] of the province will participate in popular work campaigns to organize local committees and set up exhibits of political posters, photographs, and scientific products.

Development, Housing, School Projects

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 7 Feb 80 p 7

[Excerpts] In Baghdad Mr Hisham Hasan Tawfig, the deputy minister of finance, yesterday morning inaugurated the new building of the National Pension Administration in the al-('Aqari) section of Palestine Street.

The building includes a branch office of the al-Rafidayn Bank and a branch of the National Pension Administration which has begun to conduct bank and pension transactions. The deputy minister of finance also undertook to lay the cornerstone for a computer building, which will belong to the aforementioned administration, will cost 1.2 million dinars and be completed in 17 months.

Basrah

In the governorate of Basrah a number of educational, service, and health projects will be inaugurated which have been completed at a cost of 1.2 million dinars, and the cornerstone will be laid for similar projects at a cost of 18 million dinars.

The First Self-Contained Housing Project

The cornerstone will be laid for the first self-contained housing project in the country in an area of 44 hectares in the al-Kazizah area of Basrah. The project will cost 14.5 million dinars.

The project, which will be completed within 40 months, will consist of 1,000 homes, 2 nursery buildings, 2 kindergartens, 3 elementary schools with 12 classrooms, 2 secondary schools with 15 classrooms, a health center, a police station, and complete service facilities such as paved roads, water, electricity, plumbing, telephones, etc.

This project will be implemented in light of directives given by President Saddam Husayn, during his visit to the governorate. The construction method will use prefabricated materials, and will be carried out by an international company with which a contract was signed during the ceremonies and which will build a small factory to make the prefabricated materials on the site where the work will be carried out. Also at this spot, Iraqi cadres will be trained in this specialization by Iraqi technicians and engineers.

The Ministry of Industry and Mines is also inaugurating and laying the cornerstone for a number of industrial projects, the cost of which will be 305 million dinars. The projects include the inauguration of Project No 3 for fertilizers in the governorate of Basrah, which will cost 192 million dinars and have a production capacity of a million tons a year of urea fertilizers. Also inaugurated will be the cement project of al-Samawah in the governorate of al-Muthanna, which will cost 11.5 million dinars, and will have a [production] capacity of 300,000 tons a year. [Also to be inaugurated is] the first stage of the high-voltage network project, which will cost 70 million dinars. This project represents the first stage of the largest electricity project in the country.

It includes the construction of an integrated electricity network, with a capacity of 400,000 volts, to connect the country's governorates by [power-lines with] large capacities of electricity coming from big generating stations.

This plan was designed to link the generating stations in the southern, central and western governorates to modern stations for conveying electricity. The length of the powerlines will be 2,100 kilometers and will have a capacity of 400,000 volts. And there will be 4 transformer stations with a capacity of from 132 to 400 kilovolts.

Irbil

In the governorate of Irbil 5 health centers and 2 apartment buildings, the construction of which will cost 410,000 dinars will be opened. Also the cornerstone will be laid for the implementation of educational projects,

costing 658,000 dinars, in the capital of the governorate. They will include a secondary school with 20 classrooms, a kindergarten, and 2 elementary schools, each of which will have 9 classrooms. [Also included are] other service projects, costing 403,000 dinars, including a combined mechanical and water service unit, an agricultural airfield, and the paving of a network of side streets.

Dahuk

In the governorate of Dahuk new projects which have been completed at a cost of 2.025 million dinars will be opened including 3 bridges in the district of Zakhu, boarding facilities for a [female] teachers' training school, and the (Brushki) complex which will include a police station, 2 schools, and a clinic with a doctor's house.

The cornerstone will be laid for other projects as well, costing 358,000 dinars, which will include a building for the Pension Administration of Dahuk, the building of an enclosure, another one for the Pension Administration of Dahuk, the building of a fence for agricultural research laboratories, and a laboratory for tobacco research.

More Development, Health, School Projects

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 9 Feb 80 p 5

[Excerpts] Baghdad and the governorates are witnessing the inauguration and cornerstone laying of a number of industrial, agricultural, and service projects in celebration of this memorable occasion. Their total cost is about 557 million dinars.

Mr Taha Yasin 'Ali, deputy minister of culture and information, laid the cornerstone for a project to build a printing establishment for the new al-Hurriyah Publishing House in the al-Waziriyah area.

The project, which will cost 15.054 million dinars, will consist of a 4-story building which will be for the administrative departments and operations of preparing printed materials, whereas the other side of the building will consist of 2 stories, containing the various departments of the printing house.

The Medical Cotton and Bandages Project

Mr Ahnaf Muhyi-al-Din, head of the National Establishment for Textile Industries, yesterday morning inaugurated a project [for producing] medical cotton in Baghdad which will cost 3 million dinars. The project will produce 400 tons of medical cotton, 9 million meters of medical bandages, 1 million meters of plaster, and 8 million towels. The project, which is considered to be a project having advanced technology, depends on

scientific methods of production to provide part of the needs of the country and [its] medical requirements.

Comrade Salih 'Abd-al-Hamid, a member of the branch command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in al-A'zamiyah, yesterday morning opened the headquarters of a unit of the People's Army in the Sab' Abkar area in (al-Sulaykh). The headquarters includes training classrooms, and a courtyard for training and assembling soldiers. He also inaugurated a political poster exhibit which was set up by the Youth Organization in the area and which reflects the heroic attitudes of the soldiers of the Popular Army and the stages of training the various ranks have undergone.

Al-Muthanna

In the governorate of al-Muthanna, Mr 'Abd-al-Shahid Kati' al-'Ali, the governor of al-Muthanna, and Comrade 'Adnan 'Abd Hamad, member of the Central Euphrates Bureau of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and secretary of the party's al-Muthanna command branch, and the comrades who are members of the command branch, distributed 672 plots of land and 72 apartments to the citizens of the governorate during a ceremony which took place in the domestic information room in al-Samawah.

The governor inaugurated the Southern Cement Factory in al-Samawah, which cost 17 million dinars and the production capacity of which will total 300,000 tons a year.

There took place the inauguration and cornerstone laying for a number of service, municipal, housing, and educational projects in the governorate, at a cost of 600,000 dinars. This included the inauguration of 4 elementary schools, lining the right side of the al-Rumaythah River with stones, and various service and agricultural projects. The cornerstone was laid as well for a garage with a workshop for repairing the governorate's irrigation equipment and of 9 homes for housing irrigation equipment, and 13 bridges for vehicles and pedestrians, and 4 irrigation barrages.

Al-Qadisiyah

In the governorate of al-Qadisiyah inauguration and cornerstone laying ceremonies took place for various projects on this occasion, the cost of which will be more than 4 million dinars.

Mr Rushdi Akah Hasan, deputy governor of al-Qadisiyah, and the deputy secretary of the branch command [of the Ba'th Party], undertook to lay the cornerstone for the Pension Administration [building], 4 kindergartens, 9 elementary and secondary schools, and 8 houses for the employees.

As for the projects which have been opened, they are the No 2 station for pumping drainage water, in the Hillah-Diwaniyah project, a building for a

soil research office, 6 elementary schools, and 50 homes for citizens in al-Shamiyah, al-Saniyah, al-Shinafiyyah, and al-Salahiyan, as well as a network of new streets in al-Shinafiyyah, a youth center in the (Ghammas) subdistrict, 4 headquarters buildings for the Vanguard Organization in al-Shamiyah, (al-Sudayr), Ghammas, and al-Mihnawiyah, a kindergarten in 'Afak, and 9 homes for employees and a marketplace in al-Shamiyah.

The publishing house al-Dar al-Wataniya and an exhibition of handicrafts was also opened in the governorate.

Karbala'

The masses of the governorate of Karbala', along with the leaders of the party and the revolution, headed by President Saddam Husayn, have made great efforts to be steadfast in protecting the revolution and its great gains, and to decisively confront all forms of conspiracy and surrender which have as their target our Arab nation, its greatness, and its nobleness. This was mentioned during the mass celebrations which were witnessed yesterday in the province of Karbala' on the occasion of the 17th anniversary of the Bride of Revolutions, the Revolution of the 8th of February, and the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Popular Army.

On this occasion Mr Ihsan Husayn Ghazwan, the deputy governor of Karbala', and Comrade Khalil Ibrahim, member of the Euphrates Organization Bureau of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and the Comrade members of the party branch command in Karbala', received delegations of well-wishers from the administrative office of the province and the headquarters of the branch command.

After that the deputy governor opened and laid the cornerstone of a number of new industrial and service projects, the cost of which will be more than 7 million dinars. They included the inauguration of 14 Ramadan Street, which was built by the labor of the people, the insulation materials factory in the prefabrication materials plant, the paving of a number of streets, the construction of a number of houses, lining the left side of the Euphrates in the al-Hindiyyah district, and children's playgrounds in the district of 'Ayn al-Tamr.

Meanwhile, there was the cornerstone laying of a second route for the Karbala'-al-Najaf Road, which is 80 kilometers long, and for the old Karbala'-al-Musayyib Road, which is 35 kilometers long, and [the cornerstone laying] for the marketing complex of the Ministry of Trade.

Basrah

On this occasion Mr Hamid 'Abd-al-Muhsin, the governor of Basrah, and the comrade secretary and members of the Basrah command branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received well-wishers among the chiefs of various offices and representatives of people's and professional organizations in

the province. Home ownership deeds were distributed to inhabitants of the city of al-(Shu'lah). The number of houses (involved in this) was 2,300, and the cornerstone was laid for 1,000 [more] houses in the al-Kazizah area of Basrah.

Al-Najaf

In the province of al-Najaf, Mr (Mazban) Khidr Hadi, the governor of al-Najaf, and Comrade 'Abd-al-Hasan Rahi, the secretary of the al-Najaf branch command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received the heads of various offices and people's and professional organizations, as well as high-ranking officers and authorities in the governorate.

During the ceremonies the governor inaugurated and laid the cornerstone for a number of projects, the cost of which will be 25,561,000 dinars.

Among the projects that were inaugurated are 17 elementary schools costing 2,230,000 dinars, 6 secondary schools costing 1.050 million dinars, a club and a restaurant for the students in medical school at al-Kufah, and a medical laboratory in the capital city of the governorate.

As for the projects for which a cornerstone was laid, they included a public hospital with a capacity of 400 beds, which will cost 11 million dinars, a maternity and children's hospital with a capacity of 200 beds, which will cost 7 million dinars, and a hospital specializing in fevers, which will cost 2 million dinars. The cornerstone was also laid for 2 youth centers and a model athletic club, as well as for 4 middle schools and a public playground in the district of al-Kufah.

Comrade 'Abd-al-Hasan Rahi, secretary of the al-Najaf branch command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, inaugurated the headquarters of the Popular Army command in the district, which cost 150,000 dinars, and a building for an auxiliary unit of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, costing 60,000 dinars, and there was the laying of the cornerstone for the building of a party school in the capital city of the governorate, which will cost 63,000 dinars.

9468

CSO: 4802

BRIEFS

TELEVISION COOPERATION WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA--The day before yesterday, in the evening, the National Radio and Television Agency signed an agreement of cooperation with the Czechoslovak [National] Television Agency which will be in effect for 2 years, this year and next year. The agreement, which was signed in the agency's building, stipulated the exchange of films and programs concerning [state] occasions and national holidays, participation in art festivals which are held by Czechoslovak [National] Television, and the exchange of experience and information in the field of producing programs. The agreement was signed on behalf of the National Radio and Television Agency by Mr Hamid Sa'id, its general manager, and was signed on behalf of the Czechoslovak [National] Television by Mr (Libur Bertela), its assistant general director. [Text] [Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 1 Feb 80 p 7] 9468

INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS--Production agencies in the socialist industrial sector fulfilled their production plans last year by 94 percent, which was 26 percent higher than in 1978. This information was passed on to the Iraqi News Agency yesterday by Mr Tahir Tawfiq, member of the Revolutionary Command Council and minister of industry and mines. He said that the [production] organizations fulfilled their production plans for last year as follows: the National Establishment for Mines--117 percent; the National Electricity Establishment--109 percent; the National Establishment for Engineering Industries--98 percent; the National Establishment for Food Industries--97 percent; establishments of the National Establishment for Textile Industries--88 percent; the National Establishment for Construction Industries--83 percent; and the National Establishment for Chemical Industries--84 percent. The minister stated that sales by these organizations last year were 26 percent more than they were in 1978, having reached the figure of 636,965,000 dinars, whereas during 1978 [the figure was] 524,272,000 dinars. He added that companies in the mixed sector fulfilled their production plans by 92 percent, that is, an increase of 41 percent over 1978. Their sales totaled 74,348,000 dinars, whereas in 1978 [the sales totaled] 54,512,000 dinars. Mr Tahir Tawfiq said that, at the beginning of this year, the ministry began to carry out ambitious plans to double production, to improve it, and to achieve progressively higher rates [of production] which would be in harmony with the [production] capacities planned for the establishments of the Ministry of Industry and Mines. [Text] [Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 9 Feb 80 p 5] 9468

OPPOSITION TO CAMP DAVID ACCORDS DESCRIBED BY WEST BANK MAYOR

Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 6 Mar 80 p 3

[Interview with Nablus Mayor Bassam al-Shak'a by Ghazi Jaradih]

[Text] Three town mayors from the occupied territory are now visiting Kuwait. They are Mr Bassam al-Shak'a, Mayor of Nablus, Muhammad Milhim, Mayor of Halhul, and Amin al-Nasr, Mayor of Qalqilyah. The mayors are on their way home after having represented their towns at the sixth conference of the Organization of Arab Cities which was recently held at al-Dawha, Qatar.

AL-QABAS met with Mr Shak'a to discuss the general situation in the occupied territory, Israeli measures and Palestinian Arab reaction to these measures.

Mr Shak'a said that rejection of the autonomy talks by the Palestinian people has prompted Israel to apply pressure on the [Palestinian] national movement and [Arab] public institutions [in Israel] in an effort to find a way out of the failed autonomy talks.

As examples, he cited Israel's attempt to exile him, the continuing court trials of Ibrahim al-Tawil of Ramallah and Karim Khalaf of al-Bireh, as well as the newly instituted cases against Fahd al-Qawasmeh of Hebron and Muhammad Milhim of Halhul. The last two are charged with resisting occupation policy in their respective towns.

Mr Shak'a further spoke of Israel's push to increase the number of settlers and settlements at the expense of confiscated [Arab] land, the new Israeli laws which permit Jews to own [Arab] land, and the [forced] extension of Israel's Central Electric Company services into the West Bank and Gaza as a means of defraying the cost of the new settlements. The purpose of these measures, according to Mr Shak'a, is to create an accomplished fact which must be considered in future negotiations.

The developments in Hebron provide the best evidence of the ultimate goals of Israel's [settlement] policy. Having already ringed the town with settlements, the occupation government is now moving to settle the town

itself. Jewish settlers now occupy the Dabbayah neighborhood in the heart of Hebron. Having desecrated the Ibrahimi Mosque and nearly completed the elimination of its Islamic features, they are now attempting to move into the town's oldest neighborhoods. At one point they hung a sign over the mosque designating it as a Jewish synagogue. The sign was removed after the [town] siege ended.

Meanwhile, the policy of mass punishment employed in Hebron is being extended to the rest of the population. Its latest victims have been the [refugee] Camp of al-Duhayshah in Bethlehem. The camp's gate and roads were barricaded with concrete walls, turning the camp into a mass prison. The residents were subjected daily to cruel and arbitrary treatment. The entire camp population was forced to spend one night in the open in extremely cold weather. They were constantly subjected to insults and treated precisely as occupation prison inmates.

Palestinian Reaction

Speaking of Palestinian reaction, Mr Shak'a said: "We have the right to be proud of our people's struggle. They firmly reject the Camp David accords as well as all its consequences. Simultaneously, our people reject the policy of normalization being sought by the conspirators [Israel, the U.S. and Egypt]. We reject to enter into discussions with any of them, and oppose the policy of open borders designed to speed up normalization. They [the Palestinians] have burned Egyptian newspapers in the occupied territory, and responded with a total strike in protest against the exchange of ambassadors between Egypt and Israel and the normalization of relations."

"The Palestinians," the mayor continued, "continue to oppose the settlement policy and the Judaization of their towns and the lands adjacent to them. They resist the occupation policy by refusing to have any dealings with the settlers, by frequent strikes, and by using all means at their disposal to prevent further government confiscation of their land. In Hebron, for example, the town's people, men and women, including the mayor and members of the Municipal Council, stood in the path of Israeli bulldozers and soldiers to prevent further construction work at the Qiryat Araba settlement."

Resistance to the Settlement Policy

"The people of Dayr al-Hatab, near Hablus," the mayor went on, "blocked Jewish settlers from climbing the big mountain to the designated site of the new Ellon Moreh settlement on land belonging to the Village of Rujim. This new settlement was authorized [by the Israeli Government] to replace the older one--with the same name--which had been declared illegal by the Supreme Court as a result of our people's resistance efforts."

Mr Shak'a further pointed to the many protest marches that had taken place in Bayt 'Amr, near Hebron, and other places threatened by the settlement policy. He pointed to the conference that had been scheduled to take place

at the al-Aqsa Mosque, and which had been planned by both Christians and Moslems with the support of all national organizations, as an indication of all-out Palestinian resistance to the settlement policy. The identical protest resolutions by individual town conferences condemning the government order to cancel the al-Aqsa Mosque conference, he said, are evidence of the Palestinians' determination to resist and reject the settlement policy.

The National Guidance Committee

Mr Shak'a said that the most immediate concern of the national movement is to unite the people in their struggle to defend their rights and in their adherence to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as their sole representative. He expressed his optimism that the effects of this unity will become increasingly evident in the future, and described the National Guidance Committee as a concrete embodiment of that unity. The National Guidance Committee encompasses all national movements and municipalities in the occupied territory. Its efforts toward liberation and the phased establishment of a Palestinian State are consistent with the goals of the PLO.

Five Thousand Prisoners

Speaking of Arab prisoners in Israeli jails, Mayor Shak'a put their number at approximately 5,000. As one aspect of their cruel treatment, he pointed to the fact that each prisoner is confined in a cell less than 2 meters long. He described the harsh treatment in prison as being equally or possibly more brutal than the onslaught on Arabs and their lands outside prison. Prison administrators not only mete out harsh treatment, but use its threat to blackmail prisoners into supporting the [Camp David] agreement. The promise of release from jail is used as a carrot in this scheme. Prisoners, however, have resisted these attempts in a variety of ways, including hunger strikes, and refusal to work or to accept visits. They are full partners in the national movement. Prisoners often ask their relatives to tell the outside world of their loyalty to the cause and urge them to attend conferences and participate in protest marches and other resistance activities. The most recent such episode, according to the mayor, took place in Ramleh prison. There, the inmates refused to visit with their relatives and urged them instead to participate in the sit-in in the [Arab] Jerusalem Electric Company building to protest the government's decision to expropriate the company.

Mayor Shak'a spoke in some detail about the harsh treatment of Arab prisoners in Israeli jails. "Many of them are physically and mentally tortured. Often they are maimed forever. Many of them are close to nervous collapse." He called for their rescue from the occupation authorities.

As a gesture of solidarity with the prisoners, 17 April has been designated as Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Day. The Organization of Arab Cities has resolved at its meeting in al-Dawha to take part in the observance.

Sadat's Isolation

Speaking of Sadat's willingness to drop his original insistence that normalization be tied to progress in the autonomy talks, and his rush into normalization with the enemy without any such progress, Mr Shak'a had this to say:

"From the moment he made his initiative [trip to Jerusalem] to the autonomy talks, Sadat has been retreating. He has dropped all the demands that he made before and during his initiative. He has nearly surrendered to Israel. Therefore, it is only natural that his determination to go on with normalization should be met with rejection by the Egyptian and Palestinian people, as well as the entire Arab nation. He will become increasingly isolated and the [Camp David] agreement will be weakened further. His policy of normalization, in my opinion, will fail. It will only result in greater rejection and opposition to it from all sides will mount."

The Weakest Link

Referring to Arab support for the Palestinian cause and the people of the occupied territories, and describing their present role in confronting the Zionist danger, Mr Shak'a said:

"The Arab countries' role in the fight against the Camp David Accord is the weakest link in the struggle against the Egyptian-Israeli conspiracy. At a time when the Palestinians are succeeding in enlisting world opinion to their side against the policies of Israel, Egypt and the United States, the Arab countries are not doing all they can to ensure success. Some of their actions, in fact, tend to isolate and hinder the Palestinian effort. We hope the Arabs will soon move to overcome this weakness."

Mayor Shak'a referred to financial support of the occupied territory as only one and, at that, limited part of the Arab duty. The Arab countries, he said, must play their full role to face the Zionist threat and the new military-political Camp David alliance against the Arab nation and the security of the region.

9063

CSO: 4802

ISRAEL

GREEK PARLIAMENT URGED TO INVESTIGATE REPORTS OF ISRAELI AGENTS OPERATING IN GREEK PORTS AND AIRPORTS

Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 4 Mar 80 p 17

[Article by Athens Correspondent Muhammad Mustafa Mahmud: "Israeli Intelligence Agents Reported Operating in Greek Ports and Airports"]

[Text] Greek newspapers joined three members of Parliament in their request to the Greek Parliament to clarify reports of Zionist activity in Greece. The request was contained in a memorandum demanding that the Greek people be informed of the truth and of the danger that the Zionist activity poses to some of the country's vital interests.

Commenting on the situation, Greek newspapers reported that, barring the possibility that the Zionist forces will prove more powerful than Parliament, that body will soon begin debating recent reports indicating that a number of Israeli police officers are operating in Greek ports and airports, where they are permitted to question and search suspected passengers.

This potentially dangerous development has created a state of concern and anxiety which will compel the government to give a full explanation [to the Greek people] through Parliament. A memorandum asking Parliament to clarify newspaper reports regarding this development has been submitted by representatives Georgios Papadimitriou, Ioannis Yani Papaspyrou and Thanasis Skolas.

The three representatives' memorandum states that Greek newspapers have headlined reports of immediate concern to Greek and non-Greek passengers to the Middle East, alleging that Israeli officers are permitted to question passengers on Greek soil. The memorandum adds that one of these officers, called Cal, operates at the port of Piraeus.

The memorandum, quoting newspaper reports, mentions several other things. Among them: Israeli Secret Service agents, with permission from Greek police authorities, search and question Greek and foreign passengers as they leave the country.

This unusual arrangement was discovered by us [AL-QABAS Correspondent] following a detailed and dangerous investigation, and after questioning a number of passengers, particularly Arabs traveling to Cyprus, who were subjected to the search operation.

Under the pretext of determining the identity of persons traveling to Haifa, the Israeli agents search, on Greek soil, anyone they suspect regardless of his destination. In particular, they search and question travelers to Cyprus and Rhodes.

One week before this development came to light, an employee named Panagou reported that he was detained at the port security office while he was questioned by an Israeli agent named Cal.

Two German passengers reported that they were subjected to an extremely thorough search by Greek and foreign port officers, and that they witnessed a dispute among the officers over who was to search a bag belonging to an Arab traveler to Cyprus.

According to Greek newspaper reports, 5 Israeli agents operate at the Piraeus port, 3 at the Volos port, 3 at the Salonika port, 2 at the Rhodes port and 12 at the Olympic Airport.

The three members of Parliament, supported by widely read papers (even the rightist ones) have requested the Minister of Merchant Marine, Kefalogiannis, the Minister of Justice, Stamatis, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Rallis, and the Minister of the Interior, Stratos, to disclose who gave the Israelis permission to operate on Greek territory.

The request for clarification stressed that such an arrangement subjected Greek security to the type of Zionist danger that is widespread in Europe.

Zionism in Greece

Greece is home to 7,000 Jews and another 6 million live in the United States. Very large concentrations of Jews are also found in England, France and other European countries. These Jews--refugees, as they describe themselves--are fanatic Zionists, often more so than the Israelis themselves. Most of them are found in positions where they control capital and commercial activity. No one in Greece is unaware of the presence of the many Jewish capitalists who control trade, and, more importantly, wield extensive influence over the media, press, radio and television. In addition, they are extremely influential in Greek politics and foreign policy. Due to their relatively small number, they are not as powerful as they are in other countries. They bolster their influence, however, through Masonism.

Greeks are aware that the Jews played a very active role in the country's most recent parliamentary elections, helping to elect a number of [Zionist] candidates. Two of these have made previous visits to Israel.

The Zionist movement wields much influence over the media, particularly television. One illustration of their influence is the recent anti-Islamic film seen on Greek television. A few months earlier they were instrumental in showing a film depicting how the Jews were oppressed by Hitler [Holocaust]. Arab ambassadors [in Greece] protested the showing of both films to the Greek Government. A prominent Greek journalist, commenting on one of the films, pointed out in a newspaper article that Hitler did not persecute only Jews but many other ethnic groups as well. None of these groups, said the journalist, made so much noise about their ordeal as the Jews did. No one hears about the plight of the hundreds of thousands of disposed Palestinians, the massacre of Dayr Yasin or the Israeli massacres inflicted on southern Lebanon. No one in Greece itself mentions the 240,000 Cypriots massacred by Jews in 115 A.D.

Mention must be made too of intense Israeli interest in purchasing large tracts of land in the Greek isles, particularly Crete.

One question remains: Will the Greek Parliament and press succeed in exposing Zionist activity in Greece, or will the Zionists prove to be more powerful than both?

9063

CSO: 4802

THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF MURDER OF JEWISH MAN IN HEBRON DEMANDED

Tel Aviv HATZOFEH in Hebrew 5 Feb 80 p 2

[Editorial: "On the Road to Jewish Hebron"]

[Text] The investigation of the murder of Shlomo Saloma of blessed memory continues, while a curfew is imposed on the sectors of the old city in Hebron. This week, the minister of defense will make a statement in the Knesset in connection with the murder and the findings of the investigation.

The debate will certainly include security matters in the city and in the region during the days that preceded the murder. The mayor's speeches of incitement, stoning of Jewish cars by hoodlums from neighboring villages, hostile demonstrations by schoolchildren and so forth with signs of a change for the worse in the atmosphere. This population familiar from the riots of 1929 was restrained only because of the fear of reaction. When it seems to it that the government is not as forceful as it should be and shows hesitations here and there, it reveals its dark hostility.

The residents of Qiryat Arba took pains to maintain good neighborly relations with the residents of Hebron. These relations existed during all the years of Qiryat Arba. To be sure, there is a difference between friendly neighborly relations, which for the time being are only a wish, and neighborly relations desirable for both parties. The residents of Hebron knew that it was desirable for them not to incite the Jews, just as the Jews knew that neighborly relations called for mutual respect and all possible avoidance of frictions.

The autonomy talks produced a reaction among the Arab residents, especially public figures identified with the PLO, who at conferences permitted themselves to engage in incitement against the Jewish authorities. It should be examined whether the government took the necessary steps to eradicate in advance everything that might have caused a conflagration.

Here is the case of Ilan Tur, a resident of Qiryat Arba, who was imprisoned for 7 months on the charge of "premeditated murder" during riots in Halhul and then was acquitted after it was demonstrated that the shot had been fired from his weapon. He was detained on the testimony of the Arabs of Halhul, some of whom perhaps participated in the riots, apparently without a thorough and quick investigation as to who fired the shot and what law was applicable to a shot fired in self-defense, as his acquittal demonstrated.

In cases of hurling of stones at Jewish cars, which endangered passengers' lives, and occasional use of arms in necessary self-defense certain leftist circles stood at the side of the supposedly deprived people, rioters among the Arabs, who tried to hurt Jewish passersby. It cannot be ruled out that the leftist reaction full of hostility toward the residents of Qiryat Arba indirectly encouraged the Arab hoodlums. One Israeli morning paper, full of hatred toward the settlers of Qiryat Arba, observant pioneers, in its reaction to the murder of the Yeshiva student in Hebron, wrote with wicked self-directed hostility: "Perhaps we prepared the ground for a possible clash between Moslem Khomeinism and Jewish Khomeinism."

Voices "to give a Zionist answer" to the murder in Hebron were heard in the government. This answer is expansion of the Jewish settlement of Qiryat Arba. This expansion is vital all the time. Jewish Hebron bigger and more established than Arab Hebron must be created. Some are even in favor of bringing settlers to the old Jewish sector of Hebron, at first placing them in houses belonging to Jewish owners.

Israeli television interviewed the mayor of Hebron, a hater of Israel, who, of course, accused the residents of Qiryat Arba of provocation, that is, placing several women from Qiryat Arba in the Radassah House in Hebron, as though Jews are not permitted to live in Jewish homes in Hebron.

It is urgent to expose the murderer and those responsible for sending him in Hebron and to impose a state of emergency on the city and region as long as there is fear that Jewish lives are in danger there.

At the same time, the government will have to debate and decide on two matters, which are one: expansion of the area of Qiryat Arba and renewal of the Jewish settlement in the holy city of Hebron.

11439

CSO: 4805

HAKIBBUTZ HADATI DEBATES CHALLENGES FOR YOUTH

Tel Aviv HATZOFEN in Hebrew 19 Feb 80 p 2

[Editorial: "Conference of the Council of Hakibbutz Hadati"]

[Text] The central topic of the council of Hakibbutz Hadati [Religious Kibbutz], which meets in Kvutzat Yavne, is society and the young generation. It branches into debates on values and ways of life, the kvutza as a challenge for the young generation, years of service, ways of absorbing young people, sources of absorption in Israel and abroad and so forth.

Hakibbutz Hadati, which is approaching the anniversary of its founding, is part of the Hapoel Hamizrahi movement. At its 18th council it will focus on ways of absorbing young people in the kibbutz and of fully involving them in it. According to the regular path, young people go to the army and for a year of service and a year of leave. The data demonstrate that most young men and women return home, whether to their own kvutza, to other kvutzot of Hakibbutz Hadati or to workers' settlements. But there is a minority, here and there even sizable, that establishes itself in the city.

Why are there dropouts and how can ways of life be improved significantly so that young people may be absorbed willingly? During the year of leave young people examine their path. Should they join their own farm, a new farm, a kvutza or a moshav? Should they choose life on a kibbutz or perhaps in a city? The quality of education at home plays an important part in these reflections.

The entire kibbutz movement deals with the problem of dropouts after the service in the army or after the year of leave. Hakibbutz Hadati, aiming to become a permanent home for its children and its children's children, at its council will debate the topic as formulated in 'AMUDIM, the organ of the movement: "Children are our most cherished possession. What is being done for their best absorption in terms of quality and quantity? They themselves are perplexed: Should they return by force of inertia alone, or try something new, which they have not yet experienced? We want our children to wonder and think. But how will we illuminate their path so that they can find the framework of the best quality?"

Hakibbutz Hadati with its 14 kvutzot and a population approaching 5,000 shaped a society of Tora and commandments for the individual and the public, of pioneering spirit for the people and the state and of equality and partnership for every member. The economy is mostly agricultural and partly industrial. Its educational trend is faith, Tora and commandments, building and defense of the state and establishment of a society based on the just principles of the prophecy and religious law. There is a yeshiva of Hakibbutz Hadati.

The pioneering spirit of Hakibbutz Hadati is expressed in assistance to the establishment of new settlements, in educational and social help to development towns and in mobilization to battle units in the IDF.

Hakibbutz Hadati, like the entire kibbutz movement, is in confrontation with society at large, wrestling with the problem of how to cope with the experiences and what challenges to present to the young generation.

11439

CSO: 4805

ISRAEL

OPENING OF EMBASSIES IN EGYPT, ISRAEL DISCUSSED

Tel Aviv HATZOFEN in Hebrew 19 Feb 80 p 2

[Editorial: "The Flag and Its Chances"]

[Text] The blue and white flag raised in Cairo yesterday marks the opening of the Israeli embassy in the capital of Egypt. Beyond the prolonged negotiations on the matters of autonomy between the two states this real event clearly signifies a basic change in the relations between Israel and Egypt. After the fierce wars lasting for a generation, when the biggest Arab country led the armies of all the Arab states to destroy Israel, that big country, Egypt, is the first to sign a peace treaty with Israel and urges all the Arab states to follow its path.

The opening of the Israeli embassy in Cairo is accompanied by strict security measures around the building. Many hostile elements in Egypt itself are scheming murderous attacks. Alertness to prevent attacks in the areas and within the Green Line has also intensified in the country. The throwing of grenades in Gaza, which caused a bloodshed like the murder in Hebron, points to a tendency toward a renewal of acts of sabotage on a large scale. The establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, as a serious stage in normalization, mobilizes hostile forces to disrupt it.

The Egyptian embassy in Israel will be opened this week. Next week each ambassador will present his credentials to the president of the state. We hope that the ceremonies will be conducted in accordance with the protocol and without obstacles.

While the embassies are being opened in both countries, which represents a big innovation in the political arena of the region, two central Egyptian newspapers, AL QURHURIYA and AL AHRAM, have launched an attack on Eliyahu Ben Elishar, Israel's ambassador designate, who during one of his appearances spoke about Israel's right to settle in the areas. An ambassador of state is attacked because he is loyal to the policy of his government. One of the newspapers even found fault in the fact that Ben Elishar brought with him a letter from the student council of Jerusalem to schoolchildren in Cairo calling for peace and inviting them for mutual meetings. Since the letter was written by

children in Jerusalem, according to the Egyptian newspaper, it should not be brought to the children of Cairo. It went so far. It is reasonable to assume that such biting remarks came to balance the opening of the Israeli embassy. They will keep diminishing.

Normal peace, without wrinkles, is a prolonged process, even when normalization is declared and acts necessary in peace relations are performed. President Sadat is about to propose a three-way mandatorial rule in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip for 5 years and then, at the expiration of this period, the residents will be granted the right of self-determination. He is also interested in a second summit conference modeled after Camp David. After his many gains in Sinai, including the oil wells, he is trying with the help of the United States to attain the departure of Israel from the area. The Egyptian ambassador to the United Nations joined the demand of Moslem countries that the Security Council call for an emergency meeting to prevent Jewish settlements in Hebron. Egypt is very active to include Jerusalem behind the walls in the autonomy plan. According to one report, the Egyptian ambassador-designate will note in his credentials that his country does not recognize Israeli rule over all of Jerusalem. Egypt is trying to make it up to the Arab world.

Great patience is needed during the negotiations, especially when the representative of the American Government supports the Egyptian position. But the peace in which the Americans and the Egyptian president are interested will be established only with Israel's consent. Despite the verbal criticism of the settlements in the area, they will put up with them when they are established at the planned time and place. The policy of the Israeli Government, in which it will demonstrate a fundamental approach and flexibility on the road, may make the opening of the embassies a station with many chances in the policy of the two countries for them and for the entire region.

11439

CSO: 4805

POLICY OF ACTIVE JEWISH SETTLEMENT IN ARAB AREAS URGED

Tel Aviv HATZOFER in Hebrew 11 Feb 80 p 2

[Editorial: "Jewish Settlement in Hebron"]

[Text] Yesterday the government made one of those compromise decisions that should satisfy the factions represented in it, among which there are differences of opinion, in connection with the renewal of the Jewish settlement in Hebron. The decision states that in accordance with the fundamental lines of the policy approved by the Knesset Jews cannot be prevented from living in Hebron as in any place in the Land of Israel and that the government will decide on the places and timing of settlement. The government will also act to strengthen Qiryat Arba.

This decision is satisfactory to all. Those that are in favor of a Jewish settlement in Hebron will view it as a satisfactory decision. Those that oppose it will also see it as a decision that is not against their views.

This decision exemplifies the fact that despite the existence of a clear political stand on the matter of settlement in all parts of the Land of Israel the government cannot implement its policy because of political considerations and internal differences of opinion.

The Jewish settlement in Hebron was destroyed during the riots of 1929 after the members of the community had been murdered with malice and in cold blood. The British Government stood aside and to some extent encouraged the Jews to leave Hebron.

Arab Hebron has been known as a place of constant tribulations for the Jews beginning with the riots of 1929, through the war of 1948 and the destruction of Jewish settlements in Gush 'Ezyon until the murder of Yehoshua Saloma, may God revenge his blood, last week. The Arabs of Hebron have been fighting Jewish presence in their city for more than 50 years. However, each time Jews have returned to the region of Hebron and renewed the settlement. The establishment of Qiryat Arba was a late answer to that brutal murder in 1929. The renewed settlement of Gush 'Ezyon, after its destruction in 1948, is also a resounding answer to the rioters who destroyed it cruelly in 1948.

It was symbolic that yesterday a cornerstone was laid for a new Jewish city named Efrat between Jerusalem and Hebron.

The Arab policy of not letting Jews live in regions where they rule, or where they constitute the majority, despite the fact that half a million Arabs live undisturbedly in the State of Israel, is getting an answer in the pioneering acts of establishment of new Jewish settlements in places where Jews have not set a foot.

The government must take bold steps against this policy, which forbids Jews to live in certain regions in the Land of Israel. There must be not only declarations about a policy in favor of a settlement in Hebron, but declarations accompanied by actions.

11439

CSO: 4805

AMENDMENT TO LAW OF ANATOMY, PATHOLOGY NEEDED

Tel Aviv HATZOFEH in Hebrew 11 Feb 80 p 2

[Editorial: "Morality and Medicine"]

[Text] The storm that arose as a result of the implantation of the kidney of Yehoshua Saloma, may God revenge his blood, who was murdered in Hebron, in the body of an Arab girl is part of the fundamental debate on the relationship between morality and medicine.

Seemingly, Hadassah doctors acted as professionals who had no other interest except the goals of medicine and no other considerations. But this is precisely the big mistake of the doctors who in their work do not take other, moral and social, considerations into account in their work and the human being that is before them is anonymous, like an industrial product that must be repaired and treated, not a human being, who should also be regarded on the basis of moral considerations and with the knowledge as to who he is and where he comes from.

Even if with regard to the religious law there is no flaw in the implantation of a kidney, when a patient is before us, and even if we assume that there is no religious legal problem in the implantation of the kidney of a murdered Jewish man in the body of an Arab woman, the moral and social aspect of the matter is very faulty.

Hadassah doctors erred when they did not inform the murdered man's family of the autopsy performed on him either before or after it. The argument that the family showed no interest in this is not valid, because the murdered man's family was abroad, but his close friends and acquaintances were in Israel. They could have been advised of this and the burial society should not have been permitted to disclose the performance of an autopsy.

In the Hadassah Hospital a permanent rabbi officiates and his job is to handle such matters. If the doctors had informed the rabbi of this matter and asked him to get in touch with the heads of the yeshiva where the student was enrolled in order to notify them of the autopsy, they would have discharged their moral, social and medical duty to the murdered man and his family.

This case demonstrates that this matter must not be left in the hands of doctors alone and their professional consideration must not be the only consideration in the decision as to whether an autopsy should be performed or not.

It will be strange if the authorities prosecute the nurse in the Sha'arey Zedeq Hospital, who disclosed the implantation of the kidney in the body of an Arab girl, because she did what the doctors should have done, but didn't.

The signature of three doctors on a certificate stating that an autopsy should be performed has long become fictitious. There are hospitals where there are such ready forms with signatures of doctors for every case.

This case, like others, demonstrates that it is necessary to amend the law of anatomy and pathology and to also add the rabbi's opinion to that of the doctor, as is customary in the enlightened countries throughout the world, where an autopsy can be performed only with the agreement of the family.

Medicine must take into account moral rules that are not stated in the doctors' notebook. It is a fact that, according to an instruction of the IDF, an autopsy must not be performed on a fallen IDF soldier, which is also based on moral considerations, whereas Hadassah doctors claim that they did not know this instruction, or the fact that the murdered man was a soldier. All these details call for an amendment to the law and for a thorough investigation of this case by an objective commission.

11439

CSO: 4805

ISRAEL

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS--WHO IS TO BE BLAMED

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 3 Apr 80 p 17

[Article (first in a series): "Who Is To Be Blamed for Traffic Accidents--Drivers, Pedestrians or Road Conditions?"]

[Text] It was a dark night. The driver, tight at his wheel, strained his eyes to see his way in the driving rain. He was traveling at 40 mph on a main road of a development town which is also part of a major inter-urban road.

Suddenly, 20 m away, he noticed a dark shadow quickly crossing the street. He pushed his brakes, but his vehicle skidded and hit the pedestrian. A 17 year old youth who was crossing the street was flung into a puddle on the sidewalk. A Magen David Adom physician who arrived at the scene 10 minutes later could only confirm the death.

Who was at fault? The police examiner who arrived at the scene reported briefly: "The cause of the accident--the pedestrian's behavior."

Possible Causes

The above case is one of many cited by Dr Moshe Becker, a senior instructor for traffic engineering in the Techniyon. Dr Becker states: "The behavior of both the pedestrian and the driver were but partial contributors to this accident. Additional factors--environmental and other--are no less important. If these causes had been neutralized, the accident would not have happened."

The example points to the basic debate between two approaches. One is that of the traffic examiner (i.e. the police) who maintains that the person (driver, pedestrian) has not adapted to road and environmental conditions. Dr Becker claims, on the other hand, that this is too simplistic an approach which sees everything from the legal point of view without considering and other objective factors.

Dr Becker details other possible reasons for the accident.

The road where the accident occurred is a town road which also serves as an inter-urban road. The traffic load on the road is too large in relation to the size of the town. If there were a bypass road, it is possible that the accident might have been avoided.

Lighting on the road is poor. If the situation were corrected, the driver would have noticed the pedestrian from a greater distance, and he could have avoided the accident.

The wet road made braking difficult. The wetness blurred the marked pedestrian crossing, which was already partially erased. Whereas nothing can be done about the rain, the crossing could be properly marked to avoid accidents.

No one bothered to improve traction on the road which was very badly worn out. If the road were properly maintained, it is possible that the vehicle would not have skidded so far.

The brakes were faulty. Had the driver seen to it to reset the brakes on time, he might have avoided the accident.

In Town and on The Road

In 1979, there were 14,413 accidents with injuries. Twenty thousand six hundred thirty people were hurt. Of these, 565 were killed and 3,644 were seriously injured. About 35 percent of those injured were pedestrians (5,260). Half of the fatalities (261) were pedestrians, as well as half of those seriously injured (1,282). About 80 percent of traffic accidents in which people were hurt happened on city roads; about 20 percent (2,686), on inter-urban roads. In spite of this, there were more fatalities on inter-urban roads (238) [than on city roads].

About one fourth of accidents with injuries happened at night. There were 194 fatalities, or 35 percent of the total number of fatalities, in these accidents.

In a report prepared by Dr Moshe Becker for the Knesset committee on fighting accidents, to which he is an adviser, he pointed out some common factors in accidents in 1979. The most important finding was a decline of 14.6 percent in the number of accident victims in 1979. There was also a decline, although milder, in the number of fatalities compared with 1978 (8.1 percent) and in the number of those seriously injured (7.4 percent).

Night Accidents

The decline in fatalities was most noticeable in night accidents in urban areas (16.5 percent), and in daylight accidents on inter-urban roads

(16.1 percent). In contrast, there was an increase in the number of fatalities in accidents occurring at night on inter-urban roads--14.1 percent.

Dr Becker detailed some of the reasons for this decline. Increased gasoline prices brought about a decline in gasoline consumption and the amount of travel (about 10 percent) in the last 5 months of 1979. The daytime decline was in inter-urban driving for recreation. The nighttime on urban roads for entertainment and shopping. This explains the decline partially.

The enlisting of the media for the war against accidents has increased the public's awareness of the problem, especially in the latter half of the year. Among other subjects there was a stress on safety of children. As a result there was a significant decline in the number of seriously injured children.

Police has increased law enforcement on urban roads starting in September and, starting in October, also on inter-urban roads. Police stressed traffic violations. Rapid trials in the south have made their contribution. For example, the average speed on the Tel-Aviv-Jerusalem road has decreased.

Summary

Full integration of the Tel-Aviv-Jerusalem express road in the course of the year, the implementation of controls in Tel-Aviv and the integration of the police in reporting on traffic flow in the Yarkon area and Gush Dan will make their contribution. In 1979 there was also improvement in synchronization of traffic lights in a number of intersections in Tel-Aviv. All these contributed and will contribute to the decline in traffic accidents.

The economic slowdown in November and December and the lack of rains in November decreased the number of night accidents on urban roads during those months.

Other activities of the national council for prevention of traffic accidents, the IDF and others probably contributed to the improvement as well.

Dr Becker sums up his report to the Knesset committee: "The improvement is but a pointer. Conditions in Israel, according to 1979 data, are still worse than in many other Western countries."

The report presented to the Knesset singled out children under 14. In 1979 there was a decline of 23.7 percent in the number of injured children, compared with 1978.

Police traffic chief pointed out the improvement on this score during 1979. But he, too, said: "The situation is still serious."

8646

CSO: 4805

NEW SETTLEMENT ESTABLISHED ON MOUNT KABIR

Tel Aviv HATZOFEH in Hebrew 5 Feb 80 p 2

[Editorial: "Settlement on Mount Kabir"]

[Text] Lights are burning on Mount Kabir, water is being piped to the housing units and sewage has been installed. The new site of the people of Elon Moreh absorbed most of its settlers and will continue to absorb new ones. With considerable funds the place was prepared in advance to become an established Jewish settlement in the mountains of Samaria.

As they promised in advance, four families and several bachelors among the settlers, most of whom moved to Mount Kabir, refused to leave and some of them hurled shouts of abuse at the soldiers who were forced to busy themselves with evacuations.

After the decision of the High Court of Justice with regard to the settlers, the government acted with great patience to prevent clashes that could hurt the settlement itself and to maintain the law and order accepted in the country. The settlers know well that nothing can be done without the funds and protection of the government. Therefore, the refusal to evacuate must be viewed as an act of provocation and the need to bother IDF soldiers to evacuate the settlers, as self-debasement. Apparently, several negative elements, who seek an exhibitionist political demonstration, not settlement itself, incited few people not to leave willingly, which necessitated the mobilization of soldiers to evacuate them.

It is to be hoped that the transition has come to an end and now the building of the new settlement must begin. According to the plans, this settlement must be an urban center for a network of Jewish settlements in the region. The humdrum daily routine involves continuous construction work, concentration of settlers, establishment of structures, sources of employment and addition of settlements in the region. A bill ensuring the status of the settlements in the areas is on the agenda. The legal status and the need for land occupy all the settlement blocs beyond the Green Line.

Since the future of the settlements in Judaea and Samaria depends on the political fight for autonomy according to the Israeli model, it is clear that coordination between the settlers and the government is essential in order to advance the activity and to solve status problems.

Those who see our sons and daughters building Jewish homes on a deserted mountain with faith and courage in order to turn it into a blooming settlement in the land of Samaria as is the custom, say: Blessed be He That established a widow's bounds.

11439

CSO: 4805

X-RAY WORKERS ON STRIKE

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Apr 80 p 9

[Article: "The Strike of X-Ray Workers Is a Sign of the Dehumanization of the Profession as well as of the Whole of Society"]

[Text] The sanction applied by x-ray technicians in public medical institutions, which have lasted for nearly 6 months, are a sign of the dehumanization of the medical professions. The indifference with which their actions are accepted is a sign of the dehumanization of our whole society.

X-ray technicians are demanding, effectively, that the 1978/80 labor contracts be renegotiated, retroactively, because it turned out that public employees who did not ratify their contracts when the x-ray technicians did, receive better pay raises. The public employer is not willing, under any circumstances, to reopen negotiations, for fear it might set a precedent. Compromises which were proposed were not accepted by one or the other side, each for its own reasons. In order to prevent work stoppage in hospitals and other medical institutions, the court ordered them back to work. When the court order expired, a special legislation was enacted to enable its extension. Today, x-ray technicians work by decree--but how? "By the book," which is a fail-safe recipe for torturing patients.

Anyone unlucky enough to need x-ray services in public medical institutions (and is not privileged in one way or another), could find out what that means: the technicians, who even in normal times are not known for their sympathetic attitude toward their patients, move about in the x-ray rooms and hallways like shadows of themselves in slow motion. Tea and coffee breaks have become frequent and very lengthy. Technicians do not remember to call in patients who sometimes wait for hours in the hallways of x-ray labs. Just to balance things out, those who have already been taken care of are not sent to the clinics (or home). Technicians refuse to work overtime, as is essential for proper progress of work. They sometimes refuse to come to patients' wards on the excuse of being overworked, even when patients cannot be transported to the x-ray lab. For the same reason, they "cannot" perform x-rays from mobile units. Of course, such difficulties do not arise when x-ray technicians do not work "by the book."

As a result, there are patients waiting for critical diagnostic x-rays for hours, days, weeks or even months. A common scene in an x-ray lab of a large hospital: a long hallway filled with beds, stretchers and benches loaded with patients, hospitalized or outpatients. A dozen doors of the x-ray labs are shut for one to two hours at a time. No one goes in, and no one goes out. Behind these doors, are the x-ray technicians drinking coffee? Or are they discussing current events?

The inevitable result of the continuing x-ray technicians' slowdown strike is not only suffering for patients, but loss of life. There are irrefutable testimonies of physicians on that. There are human sacrifices of this struggle between x-ray technicians and the public employers. The result of the labor dispute is bloodshed. But it is not the blood of the feuding sides--the x-ray technicians, the finance ministry, the civil service commission or the medical institutions. Rather, it is the blood of the patients who are underprivileged or unworthy of special treatment.

Hardening of Feelings

What is even more shocking is the fact that the scandal and all its implications are well known to all those concerned. The technicians' leader was quoted in MA'ARIV: "...I know that there are people who could be saved, but are not. I am aware of the fact that patients' conditions are deteriorating. But this is not our responsibility. It is that of those who do not care and who do not lift a finger to solve the problem." The hardening of feelings and the insensitivity of the leaders needs no elaboration from anyone who has seen how they treat people--they have long lost all human sensitivity. There is only one thing that can be said in their defense: If those responsible--i.e., the public employers--do not care, why should employees care? It is not written in the "book" that x-ray technicians have to be any more human, any more sensitive, any more understanding or forgiving than their employers. And x-ray work is now done strictly by the book.

What about the employers? If they think that the labor contracts should not be reopened, it is their duty to force the technicians to work in an orderly fashion, using all means at their disposal. There are such means: If the court orders are not worded such that the strikers' tricks can be "caught" by legal means, then they have to be reworded. This has to be done even if it means reconvening the 120 Knesset members from their vacation. (They are not concerned, however, because they are privileged enough to be treated promptly even in x-ray labs). If the court orders are well worded but it is difficult to obtain evidence that they are not being observed, then spies and investigators can be sent to the x-ray labs' hallways to prepare enough evidence to jail a few dozen of these technicians. If both means are inadequate, the x-ray technicians ought to be fired and replaced: from the IDF reserves, from the private sector or from abroad.

If all these are insufficient, then it will be proven once and for all that Mr Na'im Ramati and his cronies are stronger than the finance ministry, the government and the public as a whole. Anyone who can prove, conclusively, that the x-ray technicians are disobeying the court order, such as through the number of corpses of people who died because their illnesses were not diagnosed and treated in time, deserves that his own contract be renegotiated, 4 years back, with attachment to the dollar and compound interest.

8646

CSO: 4805

ISRAEL

ISRAEL FIRM ON JERUSALEM

Tel Aviv HATZOFEN in Hebrew 3 Apr 80 p 2

[Editorial: "Israel Unequivocably Rejects Returning any Part of Jerusalem"]

[Text] In a communique issued by the foreign ministry on 2 April, Israel rejected a resolution adopted by the Egyptian parliament, regarding the status of Jerusalem. The Israeli announcement stated unequivocally that united Jerusalem will continue to be Israel's capital.

This is a clear rejection. There is no doubt that the vast majority of the people in Israel are behind it. It leaves no room for doubt or negotiations. On this issue, Israel's position is firm.

Israel's communique settles things from the practical point of view. But the reaction cannot undo the bad intentions behind the Egyptian resolution.

The further Israel proceeds with implementing the peace with Egypt, the more it withdraws from the Sinai, the more the Egyptians remind us that their hatred of us is unabated. They use any opportunity to publish communiques and articles full of hatred and poison, which cast a shadow over the formal implementation of peace between the two countries. This time the announcement was made prior to the expected meetings of President Carter with Prime Minister Begin and President Sadat.

The bad intentions as exemplified by the Egyptian parliament's resolution have not been done away with by the Israeli communique. They ought to continuously concern us in the future. They ought to teach us that suspicion ought to be greater than respect.

8646

CSO: 4805

AGRICULTURE--COMING OF AGE

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 3 Apr 80 p 19

[Article: "Unsubsidized Farmers Will Have To Consider Profitability"]

[Text] Israeli agriculture is undergoing a substantive revolution. This is exemplified in the trend to figure out, ahead of time, the appreciation of the factors of production in order to calculate profitability of each sector.

This is quite significant in our country where agriculture is based on irrigation, i.e., the watering of fields, trees etc. Irrigation means energy. It does not merely require the availability of water, but also the means of pumping and carrying it from reservoir to field.

Our agriculture is not based on field crops only. Production is divided. Forty percent is livestock, and the remainder is crops. Agricultural experts explain that the key to our agriculture lies in the fact that almost all raw food needed for the production of milk, meat and eggs is imported. Since we are dependent on irrigation for crops, this means that the price of grain imported from countries where crops depend on rain, will always be cheaper than what we may have to pay for water to grow them here. Furthermore, energy will always be increasingly expensive.

Production Factors

All or most of the five agricultural factors of production--land, water, labor, capital and knowhow--were for a long time handed to farmers on a silver platter and at practically no cost. They were handed out to agriculture or to kibbutzim, depending on the political outlook, which prefers one sector to another. In any case, land was given totally free of charge or for a symbolic price. Water was also given for a price much lower than what was necessary for its production. With regard to labor, there is some distinction between the labor force which comes from the territories and that which is local, from Israel proper. Capital was for years, and up to a few months ago, given at low interest. Knowhow, the source of progress and reputation of the modern sophisticated Israeli

agriculture, was always given free of charge. There is no other country in the world where relations between scientists, instructors, agricultural researchers and farmers in the field are as close as they are in Israel.

In other words, agriculture has, up to recently, enjoyed having "too much money or its equivalent." The economic revolution of Israel since November marked the beginning of the road toward "another agriculture," totally based on economic considerations.

This means that the end has come--about 5 years too late--to the period where our agriculture was in a "fool's paradise," where farmers exploited our resources with overdrafts which always had national guarantees.

As was mentioned, we do not raise basic crops, but what is referred to as "crops of good taste," such as fruits, vegetables and flowers for export. We are allowed to eat only low grade citrus fruit, since the higher grade goes to exports.

New Planning

According to recent data on the dollar value of a unit of land (donum), and based on the assumption that we are not going to devote the little water that we have on [agriculture] only, government aid to agriculture and the new agricultural planning for the eighties will be based on production value. This will take into account the fact that the above mentioned factors of production will no longer be handed out free of charge or for a symbolic price. Farmers will have to pay full price for the land, water, capital and knowhow that they receive.

Economists figure out that the export value of wheat is \$100 per donum; that of cotton, \$250 per donum; vegetables grown in the field, \$1,000 per donum; avocado, \$1,500 per donum; hothouse vegetables, \$10,000 per donum; and hothouse flowers, \$20,000 per donum.

Agricultural water expenses in 1977 were 8 percent [of total cost]. If the price of water for agriculture is set at 6 to 7 Israeli Pounds per cubic meter, 18 percent of agricultural expenses will be for water. This fact alone will make a big dent in agricultural profitability.

Change of Scene

[As a result of the squeeze on] profitability of irrigation agriculture, the scene on the ground will change. Of the total annual consumption of 1.3 billion cubic meters of water utilized by agriculture, about 250 million is used for irrigation in the Negev and the Lachish regions. If water prices go up, it is doubtful that farmers there will use 250 million cubic meters. They will probably shift to crops with higher income potential such, as avocados or vegetables. They will still be taking an economic risk, knowing that there will be no governmental aid

to bail them out, as Israeli and foreign markets may not be willing to pay the price.

According to cautious calculations, a price of 6 to 7 Israeli Pounds per cubic meter will hardly cover production expenses of water. The farmers claim that they cannot be made to pay for capital return on the vast investments for the water system or the national water pipeline, just as the Dead Sea projects are not made to pay for the road to the Dead Sea on which the projects' products are transported to the ports of Haifa and Ashdod.

The crisis in agriculture today is for real. The answer should be not in debates on whether or not there is a crisis, as is done within agricultural institutions and the government.

An internal report prepared recently by experts in agricultural economy says, in part: "Agriculture in Israel has to be reevaluated. The whole gamut of concept, format, structure and policy has to change. We cannot allow a situation where, on one hand, settlements collapse, and, on the other, kibbutzim manage to maintain some sort of balance. The faster we define the situation in agriculture, and examine ways to develop it in a rapidly changing marketplace, the better we will be equipped to avoid future crises."

8646

CSO: 4805

AFRO-ARAB SOLIDARITY URGED TO ENSURE PEACE, PROSPERITY

Jordan AL-RA'Y in Arabic 28 Mar 80 p 1

[Editorial: "Our Opinion: Afro-Arab Strategic Solidarity"]

[Text] The general assembly of the Arab League reopened [the discussion on] the subject of the Afro-Arab dialogue during its recent session. The secretary general of the Arab League called for making arrangements for a meeting of the permanent committee that deals with the matter and for arranging a date for convening the next Afro-Arab Summit Conference.

He explained that Arab interest in having a dialogue with the African brothers and cooperating with them was natural and necessary because the Arab and African scenes were facing common challenges together. These challenges are represented in the hostile political and economic ambitions that threaten each one of them. [He mentioned] especially the ambitious Israeli designs which still represent the central problem on the Arab scene. At the same time these ambitious Israeli designs are considered the bane that created corruption on the African scene for long years until some African nations were able to get rid of them by breaking their relations with the Zionist entity in a show of solidarity with the Arab countries.

And now that the same bane has returned and the effort to infiltrate the African continent has been renewed once again as a result of the Camp David deal, it is the duty of the Arabs to hold a dialogue promptly with the African brothers so as to unmask the Israeli infiltration operation and reveal its dangers, which surround them, and its evil objectives, which seek to isolate Africa from the Arabs, resume the destructive plunder of the African scene and proceed forward in its aggressive practices on the Arab scene.

African-Arab solidarity is the indispensable shield for Arabs and Africans that would enable them to confront the aggressive, Israeli expansion that is threatening all of them. The time has come for this solidarity to become one of the strategic Arab foundations that must be confirmed and formulated by actual practice. It will then be natural for this solidarity to become one of the African strategic foundations. There can be no doubt that a development such as this would constitute a powerful thrust to ensure peace, stability and prosperity on the Arab and African scenes alike.

8592

CSO: 4802

ARABS URGED TO CONSIDER TIME FACTOR

Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Mar 80 p 1

[Editorial: "Our Opinion: The Arabs and the Time Factor"]

[Text] Events that have been occurring in rapid succession during the year that expired yesterday, since the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel was signed, have confirmed the clear far-sightedness that distinguished the Jordanian position. It is the position that did call and is still calling for Arab solidarity and for building up its own power so it can save the Palestinian question from the claws of the treaty whose parties are trying to "finagle" the question away from the Palestinian people and inspite of them.

From the first instant Jordan was the first country to warn of the dangers of the Israeli settlement policy. It was also the first country to unmask this policy in front of international gatherings. It called for the condemnation of this policy and for not recognizing its results.

And now we are seeing that the settlement policy has been the backbone of Israeli practices throughout the year that transpired since that treaty was signed. This settlement policy is even threatening the city of Hebron inspite of the absolute and firm international condemnation that was manifested in the recent Security Council resolution.

If during the same year the European community did begin to show a clear openness towards the [notion of] national rights for the Palestinian people, this is due to the Arab solidarity that became evident.

It is for this reason that we are saying that further Arab solidarity and making a more serious effort to build Arab power constitute the irreplaceable course that is to be pursued to mobilize the international community and especially the European community to restore the Palestinian question to its proper course under the international umbrella.

All the evidence indicates that the time factor is confirming the shortcomings of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty which cannot become the end of the road for the arab struggle. In spite of the affected glorification of this treaty by the media it is now facing sharp criticism. This criticism is growing daily on the Egyptian popular arena itself.

The world's impression of the treaty demonstrates more understanding of the treaty now than at any time in the past. The world understands how the treaty has come to represent an obstacle on the road to real peace in the area.

But this time factor represents the weapon upon which Israel is relying to take advantage of the claws of this treaty and to proceed toward in its capture of Palestinian land. For this reason the Arabs have to take this time factor into consideration; they have to take advantage of it in building their own power most expeditiously. This is what Jordan has called for and will not tire of calling for. Jordan will work persistently for this time factor until the "Arab status quo" becomes strong enough and the Palestinian people can regain their national rights. At that time the only place left for the Egyptian-Israeli agreement will be that of a dark memory in one of the remote turning points of history.

8592

CSO: 4802

TOP MILITARY MEN DISCUSS FLAG SERVICE LAW

Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 29 Mar 80 p 5

[Article by Muhammad al-'Abbadi: "Flag Service Law Demonstrates Will To Face Challenges; General Commander Says, 'We Are Confident of the Citizen's Awareness of His Role in the Victory March;' Director of the Draft Says, 'University Students Join Training Camps for the First Time; There Is To Be No Postponement for Those Who Fail or for Those Who Are Studying Part-time'"]

[Text] "The Flag Service Law," as His Excellency Staff Lt Gen al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir says, "demonstrates the determination and resolve of the wise leadership to build the homeland and the citizen so that Jordan can remain a stronghold of resistance in the face of challenges and dangers, aware of its role and responsibilities vis a vis the national and pan-Arab questions that are considered the principal foundations of the mission of the great Arab revolution.

"This law represents the national will and achieves the national hopes for performing a holy duty for our dear homeland and our glorious nation. This law has also come forth," went on the general commander of the armed forces, "from the pan-Arab mission that we inherited from our fathers and forefathers who carried its banner before us. It stems from our belief in the noble principles whose slogans we have been proclaiming generation after generation. We adopted these principles out of a firm conviction and a lofty persuasion."

His excellency adds, "I am quite confident that the Jordanian citizen is aware of his major role in the lengthy course [he has to travel] to achieve the goals that we hope for under the leadership of His Majesty the Great King Husayn, the commander in chief of the Jordanian armed forces."

With the Director of the Draft and General Mobilization

The Jordanian citizen does in fact have the level of awareness that is required and hoped for for defending his homeland and protecting its gains. Staff Col Muhammad Samih Hanun, director of the draft and general mobilization in the Jordanian armed forces stated that among the large number of

young people who were being called upon to serve the flag are graduates of Jordanian, Arab and foreign universities and institutes of higher learning. They have actually joined the service, and they are now receiving their military training in the camps of the armed forces.

University Graduates Called Upon To Serve the Flag

He called upon all graduates of universities and institutes of higher learning and those who are about to graduate this year as well as those who had been called upon to serve the flag to go to the conscription centers in the governorates and the districts immediately and as soon as they receive their first university degree so they can obtain the honor of serving the flag.

He affirmed that the law does not allow any student who earned his first university degree to complete his graduate studies before fulfilling his military service. He said that joining the military in our armed forces was an educational phase that complemented a university degree. The foundation of the military service course is patriotic training, masculine behavior, honor and dignity.

Staff Col Hanun said, "The Flag Service has stipulated that every male Jordanian citizen who completed his eighteenth birthday when this law went into effect, has to serve the flag for 2 years. These two years begin with the date he is drafted and joins the centers and the institutes of the armed forces. It includes the period that the drafted person spends in training and working in the military units."

He added, "It is on this basis that the Directorate of the Draft offered deferment certificates to those who wanted to complete their studies. These certificates are to be renewed every year. If for any reason whatsoever the student were to leave his university or his institute of higher learning during this period he would have to join a conscription center immediately."

Deferment Conditions

Col Nanun affirmed that the deferment of service for students is effected in accordance with the provisions of the law. These are as follows:

Flag service during times of peace can be deferred for students of secondary schools provided that the student be not older than 21 years old during the period of deferment. Flag service can also be deferred for students of institutes [of higher learning] where a certificate [indicating the completion of] secondary studies or its equivalent is required for admission. This deferment is not to exceed 2 years [or] until the student graduates from the institute, whichever comes first.

Flag service is also to be deferred for students in academic colleges where the course of study does not exceed 4 years. Service is to be deferred

until the student obtains his first academic degree [or for 4 years], whichever comes first.

At academic colleges where the course of study is 5 years, flag service for the student is to be deferred until the student obtains his first academic degree [or for 5 years], whichever comes first.

Flag service is also to be deferred for any draftee whose physical examination by the authorized military medical committee proves that he has an ailment or a disability that may prevent him temporarily from offering service. Deferment is to be terminated when the reasons for it have been removed.

No Deferment for Those Who Fail and for Part-Time Students

Col Hanun said, "Studying part-time in universities and institutes of higher learning is not considered cause for postponing flag service."

He affirmed that deferment of flag service was not applicable to students who had failed. The law stipulates that students should acquire their general secondary school certificate the same year they apply for deferment of their service.

The law also stipulated that the student who wishes to [obtain a deferment and] complete his higher education is to submit his general secondary school certificate and a document that proves that he had been accepted in one of the universities or institutes of higher learning. He is not to be more than 21 years old, and the university or institute which he is to join is to be one of those appearing in the lists of the Jordanian Ministry of Education.

The law forbade the colleges, the institutes and the schools in the kingdom from accepting for admission any student who had completed his seventeenth birthday unless he had his service papers. No student may be registered in the early stages of education at colleges and institutes where a secondary school certificate or its equivalent is required for admission if he is over 21 years of age on the first day of September on the year he is to enter school, unless he has completed his flag service duty.

Service to the Flag: Before Work or Practice of Any Profession

The law also forbade any agency from employing any person after he reaches the age of 18; from keeping him in his position or in his work; from issuing him a permit to pursue any profession; or from registering him in a register of professionals or licenses unless he had performed the actual service, or his service was deferred or he was exempted or relieved from it.

Col Hanun warned those who would stay away from serving the flag and said, "If any draftee fails to join [the military] to serve the flag at the time appointed for him and came forward later or was arrested and was found to

be over the draft age for flag service when he came forward or when he was arrested, he will be punished by imprisonment for 3 years."

Continuing Studies Is Condition for Deferment

Col Hanun cautioned students who are studying abroad that it was necessary for them to submit at a certain date, not beyond the 31st of December every year, to the Jordanian diplomatic missions in the country where they are studying a document to prove that they are continuing their studies at the college, the institute or the school for which their service had been deferred. This document is to be accompanied by a statement signed by the student, and it is to include his full name, the place and date of his birth, his address, his passport number and the conscription center to which he belongs.

The Law Is Sacred and May Not Be Ignored

The director of the draft and general mobilization affirmed that the Flag Service Law was being applied to all the citizens who had been called up. Higher orders have been issued, requiring that the provisions of this law be abided by and that these provisions not be ignored under any circumstances and regardless of the circumstances.

He narrated incidents and provided testimony to affirm this. The law is sacred and may not be ignored. Responsible agencies are prepared to receive any complaint from any citizen if any incident that may be considered disregard for the law does occur. Accordingly, the Directorates of the Draft will enforce the law and the penalty stipulated therein upon violators, if the truth of the complaint is proven.

Col Hanun announced that many Arab countries had sent special military delegations to look into the enforcement of the Flag Service Law in Jordan. They announced that they would apply the Jordanian experience because of its precision and its inclusiveness.

8592

CSO: 4802

JORDAN

FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PREPARED

Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 28 Mar 80 p 3

[Article from the Jordanian Press Agency: "Next 5-Year Plan for Ministry of Social Development Prepared"]

[Text] At a meeting it held yesterday, the committee for evaluating and preparing the 5-Year Plan for the Ministry of Social Development reviewed the completed projects of the previous 5-Year Plan and the completed phases of the plan to prepare the next plan for 1981-1986.

A decision was made during the meeting that the Planning Committee in the ministry would prepare the next 5-Year Plan. It would discuss the articles of the plan and the projects that will be included in it. It would also coordinate [its activities] with the Queen 'Alya' Fund for Social Work and Charitable and Specialized Societies so as to become knowledgeable about the plans and the action programs of these agencies, prevent duplication and waste of efforts and come out with a national, complete plan through which the role every agency plays in preparing, financing and implementing the plan would be evident.

The Planning Committee in the ministry will discuss the 5-Year Plan during the coming week. The committee will discuss the plan's objectives, its programs, its projects, the implementation time, financing and furnishings. It will discuss training requirements and the agencies participating in the projects as well as foreign financing.

The Planning Committee which is chaired by Mrs In'am al-Mutti, the minister of social development includes the director general of social development and the directors and assistant directors of departments in the ministry.

4392

CSO: 4802

PROBLEMS OF PROTECTED AGRICULTURE DISCUSSED

Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 28 Mar 80 p 5

[Article by Jamil Zayid Hatar: "Protected Agriculture in Jordan and its Problems"]

[Text] There is no doubt that in the last few years Jordan has taken enormous strides in the area of agriculture, and especially in the area of protected agriculture. The number of greenhouses in the Jordan Valley has increased significantly, and modern methods of agriculture have been used in these greenhouses. These include sprinkler irrigation and different methods of prevention and treatment. The air-conditioned and very expensive greenhouses which have begun to emerge recently have almost taken over agriculture.

Although a large number of agricultural engineers and young intellectuals have rolled up their sleeves, gone to the fields and taken steps of some value in individual or cooperative action, they do occasionally face major problems. These problems may be summarized as follows:

1. Scientific research and agricultural guidance: it is known that the Scientific Research Department is located near the Jordanian University and that a small number of farmers, and especially traditional farmers, know the location and the function of this department. Also many of those who are familiar with this department do not have the means of transportation to go to it. If we were to add to that that a number of farmers find it difficult to discover diseases on their farms, the necessity of establishing a branch for this department in the Jordan Valley becomes urgent. The farmer can thus have easy access to this department. Agricultural guidance in the field does not carry out its duties correctly. Among the reasons for this are [the following]:

- A. Agricultural engineers do not visit farmers periodically and regularly.

- B. The scientific means that would enable the engineers to make precise diagnoses of the diseased specimens that are brought to them by the farmers are not available.

C. Many of the agricultural guides lack the experience and the ability to give advice and guidance.

2. Some of the farmers get their agricultural information from representatives of agricultural companies. Although most of these representatives are engineers with experience in their fields, they often direct the farmers to remedies that are imported by their companies. They do so either to achieve specific positions in these companies or to reap profits, since most of them receive commissions on sales.

3. The existing lack of control in the prices of agricultural remedies leads to the continuing rise of those prices. This forces the farmers to refrain from using them, a matter which increases problems and agricultural epidemics. There is hope that the wise government will deal with this problem in a special way.

Finally, it must be emphasized that if we want progress for agriculture, we must offer more support and protection for this sector so as to encourage citizens to turn towards agriculture, to expand it and to achieve more production for improving the national revenue and achieving self-sufficiency.

8597

CSO: 4802

AMERICAN COMMENTS ON AFGHANISTAN APPRAISED, CASTIGATED

Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 18 Mar 80 p 13

/Article by 'Awad Sha'ban: "Afghanistan between Moscow and Washington"/

/Text/ Now that the world has been divided into two halves, one half pledging allegiance to Western interests and the other half trying to rebel against this allegiance, but falling victim to "imperialist policy" through American dominance over this policy, no cause in the world can be discussed in isolation from American intervention.

Following the growth of the Palestinian cause and its growing complexity, as a result of Western interference, in which the United States succeeded British imperialism, it became clear that however the worldwide struggle becomes ramified it will not depart from this framework. Following the Arab-Israeli struggle there were the Vietnam war and the other wars in the peninsula of Indochina, the oriental countries and all of Africa, even Latin America--wars of imperialist interests against people rising up against these interests through their innate revolutionary groups. Since the Soviet Union intervened in these wars on behalf of these uprising peoples--because these peoples' political adversary was its basic adversary as well--there was a dual interest in resisting America, in spite of the statements being made with journalistic flourish on the theory of the "balance of forces" between the two world giants which went so far as to stress the dictum of "apportionment of areas of influence" and which the enemies of the interests of the downtrodden peoples who are ideological proteges of the Western side are actively propagating. Is it necessary to conduct a census of these bodies which propagate the principle of "equality" between the United States and the Soviet Union for us to realize their political identity?

Since the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, these entities have been active in this effort, concurring with certain deceptive people who have expressed enthusiasm for the "independence" of Afghan decisionmaking, to the extent where one can only interpret this enthusiasm as a call for a retreat before the imperialist tide throughout the third world, and America's Arabs have become confused with Marxists, including certain European Communist parties such as the Italian and Spanish ones, and the imperialist media. The political victory in this war has been a dual one. It has

because a victory over Soviet policy, benefiting American policies; those opposing reaction in the third world have been recruited into serving the goals of this reaction, under the banner of American interests. However, the purpose in concentrating on the proliferation of shades lying between black and white has only been to weaken this group's argument before the former group, which continues to possess the initiative and is moving from the rearward of the defense to the vanguard of the offense. This is in practice translated into the fact that these progressive groups which basically resist colonialism and imperialism, are standing in the same trench as reaction, which is allied with American policy, whose aim is further repression and dominance of the third world extending from India to Morocco and Latin America from east to west and from Turkey to Angola from north to south.

In spite of that, one cannot place the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in the category in which one would place American intervention on behalf of Israel and against the Arab peoples in the Arab region, or American intervention in Africa on behalf of the white supremacist regimes and the new growing black bourgeoisie against the majority of the African peoples whose national dignity and human rights to freedom and existence have been degraded in the context of economic conditions which are not connected to the wheels of the American and Western European economy. However, the publicity and political onslaught against the Soviets in Afghanistan has no purpose except to efface American intervention, blatant and disguised, in the destinies of peoples behind a thick veil of deliberate blinding and deception.

In this context, the comparisons drawn by certain fanatic would-be Marxist adherents of America's Arabs in the context of defending Islam (but actually in the context of defending tribalism against progress) are equal. Otherwise, does it not stir one's doubts that some Arab regimes which claim to be progressive and boast of their resistance to imperialism are standing with the Oman of Qabus, the Egypt of al-Sadat, the Pakistan of Zia-ol-Haq and Israel in one rank, under the cloak of defending Islam, and are being blessed by the would-be Marxists, at least in theory?

Interpretation of recent events in history, from the American intervention in Korea and Vietnam to the Arab region, Africa and Latin America, emphasize to us that American imperialism is the basic enemy of peoples because it drains their wealth and obstructs their economic and social development and political independence; that there is no choice, in order to rout this dominant imperialism, for the forces opposed to it all to join ranks; and that it would not be bad to benefit from the power of the Soviet Union in this sphere, since, did this power not exist it would not have been possible for the revolutionaries of Vietnam, Africa and Latin America to resist this intervention. However, the statement that these peoples can confront imperialism by intrinsic forces alone is basically to be rejected. Let us remember well: if it had not been for Soviet intervention in Eastern Europe, this area would have become another ally of imperialism and

consequently would have become a backup force for Zionist Israel. The hypocritical crying over Islam remains out of place, like the hypocritical crying over Jerusalem, at a time when "the people of the two holy shrines" see no cause to translate these tears into decisions to use oil and oil revenues to win the war against Israel.

'Abd-al-Nasir concentrated a great deal on the Soviet Union's positions on confronting imperialism, in order to exploit these positions on behalf of his struggle with Israel. To oppose 'Abd-al-Nasir's position means only to affirm the position of al-Sadat. How can it be possible for us to combine the two contradictions in one comparative equation?

The Islam of 'Abd-al-Nasir, which did not need a certificate from America's Arabs- like his national faith in its Arabhood and progressivism--was not threatened by the "apostasy" and internationalism of the Soviet Union. 'Abd al-Nasir translated Islam, Arab nationalism and progressivism into a struggle against all American plans inside the area and outside it, on grounds that the nonalignment current, which was one of his most sincere causes, was in essence a struggle against the imperialism of the colonial West. He did not repel the Communist current, because both currents found their most comprehensive premise in the struggle against imperialism and because the time for deepening the contradiction between them had not come. Priority was given to fighting colonialism and imperialism, and these have not yet disappeared from the map of the third world.

According to our reading of his thought, which is clear from all his speeches, statements and political acts, 'Abd-al-Nasir understood nonalignment as total alignment toward the causes of national and social liberation, in which the Soviet Union concurred with him, in the stages of the joint struggle to impose change in the Arab region, indeed in all Africa, Asia and Latin America. These are the places which have been and still are witnessing revolutionary tumult as a result of American intervention, whose most prominent form is American-Israeli cooperation to dominate the Arab region as a prelude to dominating the destinies of the Middle East, including Iran and Afghanistan--passing through the oilfields of the Gulf. Can the American naval mobilization in the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea be interpreted as anything but mustering for this intervention?

The question thus goes beyond Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. It is an issue of the constant struggle between American imperialism and the peoples rebelling against this imperialism. To what group does the true Islam belong--that which is not in bondage to the policies of the White House which support the Tel Aviv-Cairo axis, in whose implicit line the oil "Moslems are traveling?"

ZIONIST PRESSURE BLAMED FOR INCONSISTENCY IN U.S. POLICY

Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 5 Mar 80 p 1

[Article by Michel Abu Jawdah: "The White Jimmy Carter and the Black Jimmy Carter"]

[Text] Will Donald McHenry, another black, become another Andrew Young? In this era of black and white, only Mr Vance, who has accepted the responsibility, knows. No one wanted President Carter and his country to look like Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. Nevertheless, that is exactly what happened, through the actions of the American president himself in a period of a few days, with regard to the American position on Israel's settlement policy.

The Security Council vote on the proposed resolution had been delayed one full day so that the U.S. delegation could complete its contacts and consultations with the White House. At the time of the vote, the U.S. representative voted in favor of the resolution which criticized the settlement policy of Israel. This was viewed as a switch in U.S. policy by Americans, Israelis, Arabs and others, welcomed by some and condemned by others. Then, in the face of Zionist and Israeli pressure, and criticism by his rival, Senator Edward Kennedy, President Carter backed down, saying that there had been an error in the interpretation of the portion of the text pertaining to Jerusalem, and that the U.S. representative should have abstained from voting.

This was not the first time the current American administration or the president himself [has done such a flip-flop]. Before he took office, people were wondering who Jimmy Carter was. His presidential actions have aroused the same question. Recent examples have been his repudiation of Andrew Young; his position on Iran, the Shah, the hostages and the international commission; his position on sanctions against the Soviet Union over Afghanistan; and, prior to that, the U.S. position on the presence of Soviet military troops in Cuba.

Still, the question remains whether President Carter is a comedian or a tragedian. That was the expression used by the pope about Napoleon when Napoleon was attempting to coerce the pope into publicly approving Napoleon's divorce, sometimes by cajolery and sometimes by intimidation, while the pope was a semi-prisoner of Napoleon.

Is the American president a tragicomic figure? In the face of America's difficult international crises--particularly those in the Middle East, Iran and Afghanistan--he appears at times as if he knows how to use, and at other times as if he does not know how to use, cajolery and intimidation with a view to increasing his popularity to ensure his renomination and victory in the presidential election.

With regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict, particularly the issue of Palestinian rights, the Middle East crisis as a whole, and the Camp David agreement, there is certainly enough material to fill books on the promises, pledges, indecisions, and about-faces of President Carter and his administration since he took office.

That is not the important thing now. What is important is that following disavowal of the vote against Israel's settlement policy, it appeared that the United States, including its president and its ambassador to the United Nations, is not satisfied with the Israeli policy. Nevertheless, the United States is compelled by Zionist pressure on its president and other government leaders to pursue or retreat from policies, or to embrace or disavow resolutions, as if the White House were a pawn in the hands of Israel. This is regardless of whether or not such policies and resolutions are in the interests of the United States.

U.S. interests are irrelevant! Israel's interests are what count! The U.S. president and the United States have no valid excuses. They are both accountable. The recent U.S. turn-about [at the U.N.] raises doubts about whether the Camp David accords represent U.S. policy or Israeli policy.

The recent U.S. turn-about [at the U.N.], which was accompanied by reassurances to the Arabs, will intensify Arab rejection of U.S. policies, even if the vote and its disavowal raised suspicions in Israel and among Israeli supporters. In the meantime, France, Great Britain, Western Europe and parts of [Latin] America are becoming more favorable to Palestinian and Arab realities.

Is President Carter Dr Jekyll, Mr Hyde, or both? Is he a tragicomic figure who may or may not be successful in getting reelected in a manner which may damage the prestige, dignity and image of the American presidency before the world?

9123

CSO: 4802

PRESS UNION CHIEF DEMANDS OPENING OF COMBAT AGAINST ISRAEL

Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 16 Mar 80 p 3

/Article: "The Demand that Arab Borders Be Opened to the Resistance;
Taha: Restricting Its Presence to Lebanon Permits the Enemy To Strangle
It and Lebanon"/

/Text/ Riad Taha, the head of the journalists' union, demanded that the Arab countries "open their borders to the Palestinian resistance, because restricting the resistance's presence to Lebanon could permit the enemy to strangle it, to say nothing of Lebanon."

The union head, Taha, held a press conference yesterday noon in the headquarters of the union, following the conclusion of the South Lebanon Cultural Assembly's press conference, in the presence of the assembly's members. He talked about the second anniversary of the Israeli onslaught on southern Lebanon.

Taha began his talk by announcing a delay in the convening of the conference of Arab popular and vocational federations which was to be held in Beirut today, because it was not possible for a number of federation heads to arrive, especially the Syrian brethren.

He added, "Talking about the Israeli attack on the south leads us to talk about the Lebanese cause and the Palestinian cause; here I consider that it is proper to talk from an Arab national point of view, not from a Lebanese point of view or a domestic or regional one."

He said, "About a year ago we presented a recommendation in which we called on the various Arab countries to open all their borders to the Palestinian resistance. At that time we said that that recommendation was not linked to the recommendation which the president had previously presented 4 years ago when he appealed for the Palestinians to be dispersed among the Arab countries. Rather, we are saying that Lebanon is performing its national and domestic duty when it embraces the Palestinian revolution, because it is Lebanon's duty to defend itself first against the Zionist danger which

threatens it as it threatens the other Arab countries, especially the countries surrounding Palestine."

Trade union chief Taha continued by saying, "Lebanon, as a member of the Arab family, must perform its national duty and participate in the Arab battle of destiny. However, the demand for the opening of Arab borders is aimed at supporting the Palestinian revolution first of all, because restricting the presence of the Palestinian resistance to Lebanon could permit the enemy to strangle it, to say nothing of strangling Lebanon. Expansion of the scope of the struggle, by causing it to extend over the Arab nation from east to west, will prevent this from occurring."

Trade union chief Taha said, "Let us talk practically and in figures. The number of Palestinians today is estimated at 3.5 million; 1.5 million of them are in the occupied territories, that is, within the Zionist entity, while the rest are dispersed, mostly in Jordan, followed by Lebanon, then Kuwait, then Syria, for a total, therefore, of 2 million Palestinians outside Palestine."

"The Palestinian revolution is to mobilize the greatest possible percentage in this 'dividing' time before the final period. The highest percentage means 10 percent of the total population, that is, 200,000 Palestinians. If we estimate the number of Arabs at 100 million--except for the Arabs of Egypt, who are not isolated from the Arab nation--every Arab country's share will be the equivalent of 100,000 Palestinian recruits."

"This means that we are demanding that the Arab countries and governments permit the revolution to recruit and train Palestinians dispersed from Mauritania to Iraq, Oman, Kuwait, Yemen and so forth."

He went on: "Some people might wonder what benefit there is in mobilizing and training 2,000 or 4,000 Palestinians in Mauritania. The answer is that when Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, the Sudan, and Somalia train, or allow the training of, Palestinian detachments under the surveillance of their armies if they want, and under the surveillance of their official armed forces, then give these recruits the opportunity to leave to fight Israel and world Zionism under all the skies that can absorb the struggle, and the world is compelled to bring Israel to its knees, then the whole world will be the arena of the struggle and it will not just be confined to southern Lebanon."

He said, "We are not complaining about the presence of the Palestinian resistance here; rather, we are proud of being the only ones who have permitted the resistance to set forth. Consequently we are demanding the other Arabs to resist in their turn. We are not demanding that every Arab country pay as the south has paid, but they must pay a small portion of what it has paid."

He went on, "Perhaps it has been said that the Arab countries, or some of them, may refuse to allow the training of Palestinians or to shelter them. At this point we must embarrass these countries, and the criterion of their veracity will be whether they accept or do not accept this simple duty, which is the least of duties as far as the struggle and its importance are concerned because most Arab countries back the Palestinian cause theoretically or in words and demand that others pay the price. However, when these countries are placed under their responsibilities, they will know which governments are telling the truth and which are lying."

He also stated, "The Lebanese cause, or the cause of the south, today is linked with the Palestinian cause. Kreisky estimates that to resolve the Palestinian question it will take 4 years, and others besides Kreisky say 5 years, that is, the period Anwar al-Sadat and Menachem Begin set forth for the autonomy period. Some optimists say that this will take 2 years, since these people consider that the solution is linked to a date from President Jimmy Carter--preceding the elections, so that he may thereby be nominated. We say a solution in 2 years or 5 years will never be satisfactory, adequate or include the minimum which the Palestinians can accept unless pressure is adequate, and this will come about only by violence, or the ability to use violence, because then the solution will be imposed by the force of arms or under the pressure of force of arms."

Following the session, questions were presented to trade union chief Taha. The most prominent of these were on the use of the only weapon used in practice by the Arab countries today is the oil weapon. The weapon of steel and fire will be in abeyance as long as it is taken for granted that the balance of power favors Israel, especially now that Egypt has departed from the struggle. There is no one today among the Arabs who is threatening war, or who has been preparing for imminent war, since 1973. Eyes are directed toward the Arab oil countries to put pressure on America and the European countries. This is the only weapon which the Arab countries are using today."

He was asked if the increase in oil production and deposits of financial reserves in America would help resolve the cause. He replied, "There are differing interpretations in this sphere, although the use of the military weapon was what led to the use of the economic weapon in 1973. In order for us to demand that the rich countries use their material powers in this sphere, the fighting people must use their powers first of all because the weapon of iron and fire is that brings other weapons into the struggle."

PROBABILITY OF RESUMPTION OF CIVIL WAR EXPLORED

Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 19 Mar 80 p 11

/Article by Walid al-Nuwayhid: "The National Reconciliation Faced with Likelihood of a Blowup"/

/Text/ The moves toward a reconciliation which numerous official and political parties have proceeded to make have entered the realm of struggle again.

One can state that the appeals for conciliation have returned the struggle to its main elements, since every party is standing on the verge of concessions which it can offer, either to bargain over them or renew fighting on their basis.

The moves toward reconciliation were an occasion for the various parties to separate their forces, prepare their cards and point out the essence and goals of the struggle once again.

The Israeli enemy has reopened the battle for the south and has resumed its violent artillery bombardment of towns and villages in the desire to encourage some local forces to revive the file on the south, on grounds that they are bringing up the Cairo Agreement and the Palestinian armed presence again in a manner which does not emphasize the Zionist occupation and its political danger to the entire structure of the country and the present assets of Lebanon.

The "Lebanese Front" has brought up the points of its political program and its basic position on the issues of Palestine, Arabhood, sovereignty and unity in order to emphasize that it has not relinquished these points and that it considers them political barriers in the way of the contents of President Sarkis' letter.

The official authorities have gone beyond the president's letter to renew discussing the subject of bringing in the army before political agreement among Lebanese tendencies, in their attempt to stress their main slogan, which views the political issue from the security angle.

The national movement has reviewed its political forces in 'Aliyah on the occasion of the completion of its political initiative in order to show the political authorities, and cause those who have difficulty doing so to understand, that a renunciation of matters to be taken for granted is not open to discussion as long as they constitute the acceptable minimum for political negotiations.

Thus we are faced with four major attempts which have been made so far on the occasion of the start of the discussion of political reconciliation. The Israelis attempt to demolish the country with the objective of expelling the joint forces from the south, guaranteeing their security and borders and realizing their designs in Lebanon and their plan in the area.

The secessionists attempt to demolish the political reconciliation plan in order to pave the way for the consummation of their basic plan, which calls for the imposition of their authority on Lebanon and the isolation of Lebanon from its national and domestic causes.

The officials attempt to impose their political plan on the basis of their "legitimate" security by imposing an authority relying on the army, not on an agreement among the parties to the struggle.

The nationalists want to carry out the political agreement on the basis of a minimum plan which will guarantee the matters to be taken for granted and reopen the struggle again around issues complementing the main national conciliation.

All these attempts have gone on, and are going on, under the umbrella of the official Arab resolution and in the context of the balances of forces in the region.

So far the political options have not gravitated toward a decisive resolution which will reflect a specific transformation in the domestic situation as part of the balances of power in the region in the current phase.

What can be deduced today, following the passage of a short period of time since the moves toward conciliation--following attempts made by some to postpone them and by others to move them forward--is that the reconciliation is still at the beginning of the road and there is much likelihood it will experience a relapse.

In fact, one can conclude that the possibility of achieving reconciliation is moving parallel to the possibility that the military situation might explode.

In other words, the elements for achieving reconciliation are exactly the same as those for reorganizing the struggle on its fundamental bases.

The battles Israel has launched with the "Lebanese Front" and some parties to the authorities cannot be dismissed as political protests with an intense effect or as political forces which can sweep all attempts at agreement and reconciliation aside.

The Israeli aggressions in the south are being promoted to push back reconciliation and reorganize the political confrontation domestically under conditions which the enemy is planning for or managing.

The political protests which the "Lebanese Front" has made over the national reconciliation are again stirring up the elements setting off the civil war which will leave their stamp on the south.

The insistence by some authorities on viewing the reconciliation from its security angle clashes directly with the national plan and once again lays out the possibility that the official Arab umbrella will be used to exert political pressure to provide a better atmosphere for guaranteeing that the army is brought in before agreement is given to the reconciliation.

These various probabilities and considerations are relevant in every political twist and turn in the Lebanese situation; they are probabilities and considerations which previously thwarted many attempts to achieve reconciliation.

Therefore it is not easy to say that reconciliation is still near, since the explosive elements are still present and the possibility that an explosion can happen again and be set off on the stage of the struggle is more present than at any other time.

Despite all these dangers, there is no doubt that the greater danger is political relaxation on the national-Islamic street, following the relative tightening up which it witnessed following the political initiative and the latest military review.

Placing reliance on the phenomena of the relative political intensification of the national-Islamic atmosphere, the construction of fantasies on the scale of the mood which appeared recently, and the weaving of images from the context of the domestic "victories" and their equivalents on the foreign situation, and with various parties involved in the struggle, will not serve the campaign for reconciliation but will lead to its defeat.

Therefore the effort which has been exerted to make the political initiative mature and to support it by military force will need more application if the initiative is to succeed and a balanced domestic reconciliation is to be attained. Otherwise the door will be open to regression and relaxation on the Islamic-national street.

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CALL FOR NATIONAL ACCORD BY DEFERRING DISCUSSION OF DETAILS

File AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 10-16 Mar 80 pp 10, 12

[Article by Emil Khuri: "'When it Comes to Reconciliation, When One Side Shows Moderation, the Other Side Delves into Details'; Each side tries to use the issue of an entente to try to corner and isolate the other side in order to attack it"]

[Text] What happened to the implementation of the Syrian decision to withdraw the 'Arab deterrent force' from certain areas? And what happened to implementation of the Lebanese decision to deploy the Lebanese army to fill the void?

The answer awaits the results of the current efforts to bring about an accord. If it is achieved with the approval of the principal parties, the Syrian and the Lebanese decisions will be implemented naturally and peacefully without complications. But, if for any reason this is not achieved, anything could happen.

The negotiations between Beirut and Damascus are crucial to the progress of reconciliation to a happy conclusion and to attainment of objectives without which reconciliation efforts would come to a standstill.

However, the question being asked by observers now is: Why do some factions moderate their positions on an accord while other factions announce opposition to it as inappropriate under present conditions, but then reverse themselves and continue to take part in related consultations?

An informed source reveals the reasons for this. He says that each side is trying to use the issue of an accord to corner and isolate the other side in order to attack it. Each side shows moderation in order to make the other take an extreme position and oppose the proclaimed principles of reconciliation. The objective is to draw the government to adopt a position [hostile to] the latter. Thus, in fact, a government official has met with leaders who had a negative attitude toward an accord, and informed them of the consequences and repercussions of such a position.

The official urged these leaders to support the principles of the accord as soon as the government announces them, so as to thwart any plan to isolate and attack them. Specifically, the government will announce only those principles that have been accepted and which all parties have agreed upon, because it does seek a consensus, not a majority agreement. Thus, each principal faction which opposes the principles of the accord could thwart its implementation, because it has the power to use the veto against the majority.

In his conversation with the above-mentioned leaders, the official focused on the importance of establishing mutual understanding and good relations between the Lebanese and Syrian governments, because this is the only way to achieve the peaceful withdrawal of the deterrent forces, and ensure the gradual deployment of the Lebanese army everywhere in Lebanon.

Therefore, [the official said], it is improper to oppose such a mutual accord, even if it may lead to making some sacrifices and concessions, because there is no other alternative.

To speak, for example, of Lebanon's Arab identity is not strange since Lebanon is already a member of the Arab League. To say that Lebanon is the enemy of Israel and rejects any form of cooperating with that enemy is not new, since Lebanese laws already provide for punishment of traffickers with Israel. To say that Lebanon opposes the Camp David accords because they will not bring about a just and comprehensive peace and will not solve the crisis in the region, and because they impose on Lebanon a settlement that has been rejected by it and by the Palestinians and the Arabs, is something that has already been reiterated by President Sarkis in his speeches and messages to the Lebanese people on numerous occasions.

Points such as these will be repeated when the principles of the accord are announced. Those leaders who favor the regime must support them, otherwise they will have isolated themselves and will have forced the regime to make a difficult choice: either side with them and contract the enmity of large forces or side against them, isolate them politically, and possibly attack them militarily.

However, success of the official in softening the position of these leaders toward an accord and persuading them to moderate their views, induces the factions whose purpose was to isolate these leaders to modify their plan (of procrastination) and to demand disclosure of the details of the major principles of the proposed reconciliation.

Among these principles are the following: clear definition of the concept of special relations between Lebanon and Syria and why they must be special; clear definition of the desired balance in the army organizations; definition of the means of regulating Lebanese-Palestinian relations, either by considering previous agreements as still in force, or by considering them null and void and drawing up new agreements which would take into consideration military and political developments; clear definition of prohibition

of any unauthorized armed entity or phenomenon; definition of whether this covers the Palestinian forces and to what extent, and whether the regime still depends on banning these forces on the basis of previous ineffective understandings that prohibition of armed Lebanese presence (in Palestinian camps) must be coupled with prohibition of armed Palestinian presence (elsewhere); definition of how participation of [diverse factions] in the government is to take place, on paper as well as in fact; and definition of the federal, confederal or decentralized form of government under which the unity of the people, the land and the institutions of Lebanon are to be maintained.

If the government were compelled to enter into discussion of specific details of these principles as a precondition to acceptance of an accord by the main parties, the government would find its scope for maneuvering limited and would find it difficult to produce a formula for agreement. It would find itself faced with a difficult decision. If it contents itself with proclaiming general principles without entering into details, it will be confronted by the opposition of the main parties. On the other hand, if it enters into details, it will please some parties and [stir up the opposition of] others.

In this connection, Prime Minister al-Huss has said that any party that is honestly and sincerely determined to achieve an accord must not embarrass the government or force it to define principles the details of which require time and negotiations among the various factions of the conflict. To insist upon entering into details, despite awareness that there are diverse opinions about them, would cripple the government by making it appear impotent. It would be an attempt to kill the watchman of the vineyard, not to eat the grapes. That would not be conducive to achieving an accord, but would lead to creation of a political crisis and a government crisis. Is that our goal?

Prime Minister al-Huss added that the Lebanese people have lived according to the charter of 1943 which is unwritten and is defined in few words, some of which are ambiguous. They have lived by it for more than 30 years, because they were determined to avoid crisis they preferred coexistence without going into details of the charter, bickering over whether it was written or unwritten, or dwelling on the Arab nature of Lebanon or on the meaning of the expression "neither east nor west."

A declaration of faith in postulates [uncontested elements] of the principles of an accord has now become necessary. Following such an act of faith in postulates, the parties in the conflict can begin to negotiate the details.

POLITICAL INFIGHTING IN ARAB LABOR ORGANIZATION REPORTED

Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 15 Mar 80 p 6

/Article: "Saqr and al-Habar Consider the Government Responsible for Khuri's Failure"/

/Text/ The president of the General Labor Federation, George Saqr, and the head of the National Federation of Workers' and Employees' Unions, Ilyas al-Habor, criticized the government's negligence in not playing its part to support the nomination of the director general of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Hamid Khuri, to win the position of director general of the Arab Labor Organization.

It was considered that Khuri's withdrawal was not a failure for him so much as a failure for the government.

Saqr and al-Habar returned the day before yesterday from Baghdad, where they participated in Arab Labor Organization meetings. They made statements yesterday in which they commented critically on the subject of the elections.

In his statement, Saqr was observed that "The campaign for the election of a new Arab Labor Organization director general was bitter in the extreme, since three nominees to this post stood out--Messrs Hamid Khuri (governmental, from Lebanon), Abdelkader Ben Saleh (governmental from Algeria), and el-Hachemi el-Banani (trade union from Morocco). Since the organization's constitution requires that the person winning obtain half the votes plus one at least (that is, 41 votes), the matter required that three ballots be held by secret vote, the last one of which resulted in the victory of el-Hachemi el-Banani by 42 votes, after the Lebanese nominee was compelled to withdraw as soon as the results of the first balloting were declared in view of the small number of votes he obtained."

He said, "I am concerned to state that the Lebanese delegation's bitter disappointment with the results of the vote did not arise from the failure of Hamid Khuri, in view of his competence, which we require in the Ministry of Labor, but may be attributed to the fact that the government did not

prepare in advance for this kind of political electoral struggle to get in touch officially with Arab governments. It would have been proper for our government to move as did the Algerian and Moroccan governments, which went into this campaign with previous political support for their candidates through official contacts with Arab governments at the highest government levels 3 months ago. Therefore our regret is most intense, because Hamid Khuri's failure in these elections was not a personal one but a government failure which was reflected in a negative manner on Lebanon's reputation and status. That could have been negated either by proceeding with the campaign or by not doing so, in the light of previous official contacts."

Saqz concluded by stating, "The trade union movement in Lebanon must feel content, because the person winning this lofty position comes from the workers; this is the first time in which a trade unionist has won the position of director general in an Arab organization containing representatives of governments, employers and workers. Therefore the General Federation of Workers in Lebanon salutes the union member el-Hachemi el-Banani and wishes him every success in his new tasks."

al-Bahar said, "The Lebanese delegation to the Arab Labor Organization conference played an important role in strengthening relations with the Arab organizations, and my election as vice chairman of the conference was a gain for Lebanon as a whole and not just one party to the exclusion of another."

He added, "From the standpoint of the results of the elections which took place, these have left no negative effects on the activity of the Arab Labor Organization; the proof is the unity of the workers' ranks which was prominent during the conference. However, it must be said that Shaykh Hamid Khuri's failure to win may be attributed to inadequate official Lebanese support, the Lebanese minister of labor's visit to Baghdad and his holding of talks with various parties was not enough. They ought to have been preceded, following the nomination decision, by Arab political contacts at the highest levels, which is what the other delegations did about 4 months before the conference was held. This led to the loss of the campaign, and the official authorities are responsible for the results. Though it should be borne in mind that we need the director general of the Ministry of Labor in Lebanon, we are more in need of the position of the director general of the Arab Labor Organization, and this should have been understood before the conference in a country such as Lebanon which is passing through hard social and political circumstances."

MODIFICATION OF BASHIR AL-JUMAYYIL'S POSITION EXPLORED

Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 10-16 Mar 80 p 12

[Article by May Kahhalah: "The Murder of His Daughter Made Him 'The Issue'; Will Bashir al-Jumayyil Remain As Leader of the 'Hawks'?"]

[Text] Following the murder of his daughter, it was expected in Lebanon that Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil would join the "doves" within the Phalange. What does the third al-Jumayyil have in mind?

All Lebanese abhorred the second al-'Akawi incident which took the life of the daughter, driver and companions of Bashir al-Jumayyil, the leader of the "United Lebanese Forces."

But politics, with the exception of repercussions at the local level, did not come to a standstill when the incident occurred. Therefore, many have begun to anticipate a clear change in the behavior of the "hawk" of the Phalange Party, particularly in the direction of moderation.

This is not a blind guess. Observers point to what they consider as sufficient evidence of such change dating back to the abduction of Phalangist member of parliament Edmond Rizq which happened to occur on the same day that Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, Minister of Defense Joseph Skaff and Minister of Education Butrus Harb were visiting Syria.

One after another, those who are optimistic about a shift in the position of the "third al-Jumayyil" believe that the reaction to the abduction of Rizq was mild, despite the strong statement made by al-Jumayyil on the same day: "The incident is serious. We know which faction committed the crime, and we know how to respond to it."

At the time, people expected quick military action or an act of revenge which would turn things around and enable the Phalange to regain the initiative. But nothing like this happened. Rather, efforts were directed toward peaceful negotiations undertaken by two mediators.

At the same time, journalists who accompanied the Lebanese ministerial delegation to Damascus reported that Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Lebanese Defense Minister Skaff held a private meeting devoted entirely to Bashir al-Jumayyil. It was at this particular time that every-

one expected violent actions on the part of al-Jumayyil, such as opening fire on Syrian leaders, if the opportunity arose. But he contented himself with a quiet reaction, as he regarded Khaddam's attention had great political significance.

Two days before the al-'Akawi incident, Bashir al-Jumayyil took time to define his concept of the current situation following widespread talk about entente. He is known for his avoidance of daily statements, so that when he speaks, his statements create a stir. In his discourse which preceded the incident, some detected a positive attitude in his emphatic rejection of the idea of a Christian national home and his strong commitment to Lebanese unity. This was the first time he spoke decisively about these two issues without attaching conditions or direct accusations against the Lebanese Moslem faction.

Political pundits cite as final proof of the change in al-Jumayyil's position the strict orders he gave following the murder of his daughter against any rash military reaction and for discipline and restraint. The cars burned or damaged in the incident were removed very quickly so that little Maya's funeral procession could proceed in al-'Akawi less than three hours after her murder. As a result, everyone maintains that were it not for the hole in the pavement in front of the foreign ministry, no one would have known where the explosion occurred.

But why [did the Damascus conferees focus] on Bashir al-Jumayyil? Is he an issue? Or is he the issue, as his opponents maintain, and as his allies, who believe that any agreement must have his blessing or at least his approval, seem to imply?

Those who have followed the news of Bashir al-Jumayyil since [he became prominent] in the events of 1975, first classified him as a militant partisan who carried out orders without considering political implications. But the young man, who became leader of the Phalangist War Council after the murder of its former leader, William Hawi, began to represent a position within the party which caused many to quickly classify him among the "hawks," while they considered his brother, Amin, as a leader of the "doves."

Bashir al-Jumayyil is the subject of analysis in any event and development. On one hand, he is a symbol of "militant resistance" and political rejection of all theses which ignore what the Christian faction is fighting for. At the same time, his opponents consider him a symbol of militant "fascism" opposed to the principles of negotiation and heedless of all Lebanese factions, particularly the Moslems.

The picture of al-Jumayyil in everyone's mind is one of unshakable obstinacy, unwillingness to change an opinion or make concessions. His supporters regard this as loyalty to those who have fallen in defense of ideals which he has proclaimed. But his opponents consider it a weakness, because the art of politics requires flexibility and willingness to adjust to current trends so that they do not sweep the politician away.

This quick sketch of Bashir al-Jumayyil reflects the broad outlines of his personality. He usually responds to characterizations and descriptions of himself as merely cliches for daily consumption.

Those who are close to him do not see any justification for the trend to advocate moderation after toughness. They say that every phase has its own requirements, and that under the threat of military battles, it is not appropriate to engage in conciliatory talk which would be interpreted as a position of weakness.

In spite of all that is being said, his associates maintain that the "third al-Jumayyil" has been influenced by the course of events, but that he will not put down his rifle before achieving what he considers as minimum demands. He also does not try to be accommodating, but says what is on his mind without mincing words. If that represents rigidity to his opponents, it is firmness to his supporters. In the same speech in which he endorsed the unity of Lebanon and rejected the idea of a Christian national home, he said that true agreement would come about "when Moslems and Christians join forces in a war of liberation against the Syrians and the Palestinians." He has reiterated since 1975 that he would liberate Lebanon from all the "foreigners." Thus, can his position be said to have changed?

Al-Jumayyil has demanded two things of the Moslem faction: "Freedom for this (Christian) society so that it can live in complete peace of mind and exercise its traditions and beliefs; and security in a comprehensive and deep sense of the word, so that the sacrifice of so many victims, coupled with widespread destruction, may not recur every 10 years."

A few words stand out in Bashir al-Jumayyil's statement of thanks to those who expressed their condolences on the murder of his daughter: "I give you my word that I shall forgive those who have harmed me personally. But we shall not forgive those who have harmed the homeland."

In the light of all of this, political circles are still reluctant to try to define or predict the future political positions of Bashir al-Jumayyil. In any case, he refuses to dwell on matters such as these, despite numerous attempts to draw him into elaboration on his thoughts.

9123

CSO: 4802

POOR ECONOMIC SITUATION OF COUNTRY IN 1979 REVIEWED

Beirut AL-NIDA' AL-USBU'I in Arabic 16 Mar 80 p 10

/Article: "The Lebanese Economy in 1979: For Broad Groups the Social Crisis Has Dragged on; A Counterattack from the Popular Movement is Needed"/

/Text/ It may be premature to evaluate the course of economic activity in 1979, but some partial data are available in addition to a group of sectoral indices which state that 1979 witnessed relative improvement in the rate of economic growth in comparison with 1978, which in the last quarter was characterized by increasing armed skirmishes and conflicts in the capital and suburbs between deterrent forces and the "Lebanese Front." However, this relative improvement was not uniform; it varied from sector to sector. The agricultural sector, to whose weakening and the paralysis of part of whose capacities the continued state of war in the south contributed (the south accounts for about 20 percent of Lebanese cultivated land and agricultural output), is still suffering from the results of the continuing war; it is estimated that the tobacco crop in 1979 will total only 45 percent of the 1974 crop, and that fruit and citrus exports will be below the level attained on the eve of the war (in volume, not in price). As for the industrial sector, in spite of the continued rise in its cost of production (the rise in prices of primary materials, energy and specialized manpower wages), the increasing competition it is facing through broad-scale smuggling operations, and the financing problems it is facing (only 68 million Lebanese pounds out of the loan of 400 million have so far been spent), it has been able to continue its escalating growth. In the first quarter of 1979 the Ministry of Industry gave about 30 industrial permits as compared with 65 for all of 1978. The average value of industrial equipment imported per month in 1979 came to more than 35 million Lebanese pounds while industrial exports leapt in the same year by more than 60 percent, benefiting from the increase in their power to compete in Gulf markets as a consequence of the drop in the value of the pound and the rise in the currencies of countries exporting their products to these markets.

However, the continued industrial growth was not harmonious, since some "traditional" industries experienced more problems and difficulties

(dozens of textile plants closed their doors during the year), while other industries dominated by an export orientation witnessed further growth and prosperity (chemical and metal industries). In the banking sector, deposits experienced a perceptible rise in 1979, exceeding 16 billion Lebanese pounds at the end of the year as compared with 13.8 billion in 1978 (and 11.6 billion in 1977). The spread of bank branches throughout all areas of Lebanon continued. The number of people employed in this sector (as opposed to all other sectors) increased. Permits were granted for eight new banks. At the same time, the local banks continued the process of spreading abroad, especially in European capitals, and entered into partnerships with Arab and foreign capital in an effort to attract a share of the "surpluses" of Arab oil revenues, whose owners were dominated by anxiety because of the freeze on Iranian deposits by the American government. However, in spite of this growth, the banking sector continued to refrain from expanding lending policy and to finance speculative activities to excess, whether real estate speculations or speculations in foreign currency. This, with other factors, helped intensify the severity of the decline in the value of the pound, which was 300.50 piasters to the dollar at the end of 1978 and came to 330 piasters per dollar at the end of 1979 (one should realize that shortly before the end of the year the dollar was worth 350 piasters).

In addition to these data, estimates have been available on a number of other sectoral indices. Disturbances in foreign trade, for example, increased in 1979; informed circles estimated that the foreign trade deficit totalled about 4.5 billion Lebanese pounds per year as compared with 3.2 billion Lebanese pounds in 1978. Though customs duties increased by not less than 35 percent, they have not come to 700 million Lebanese pounds, as was estimated in the budget for last year, raising the volume of the deficit anticipated in this budget. In another area, activity in the port of Beirut recorded modest levels, since this port remained closed until March and did not resume normal activity after that time; activity in the port of Tripoli, meanwhile, rose by 58 percent as compared with 1978. Air transport activity stressed the discrepancy between people coming in and people leaving, underlining the view that the emigration of Lebanese is continuing. Preliminary figures have shown that air activity in 1979 was still 35 percent lower than that recorded in 1974, while the number of transit passengers dropped by 75 percent in the same period. One can also deduce from the data available that fuel consumption rose in 1979 by a perceptible rate, not less than 20 percent in comparison with 1978. What explains the rise in this consumption is the increase in the number of cars registered in 1979 (this figure is estimated at more than 25,000), in addition to the relative improvement which took place in economic activity (the rise in consumption of light and heavy fuel oil).

However, in its positive and negative features, this economic tableau does not reflect the true aggravation of the social crisis which occurred in 1979. The socioeconomic developments which preceded the war, in addition to those which have arisen from it, have, in their general results, deepened social contradictions and created extremely difficult living

conditions. Extensive social groups remain incapable of bearing them. These circles are not restricted to the working class alone but extend to other laborers, employees, white collar workers and small producers in urban and rural areas, in addition to broad segments of the middle classes themselves. These groups, combined, are suffering from a constant deterioration of buying power, as a result of the intensifying inflation in the structure of the Lebanese economy, the growing dominance of monopolies in all sectors and the government's firm bias toward big capital. While the 4 years extending from 1974 to 1978 were distinguished by the transformation of high costs and inflation into an inseparable characteristic of economic growth, as the rate of average increase in prices was about 20 percent per year, 1979 deepened this transformation and experienced a qualitative escalation of the price curve. The increases in prices in the past year were estimated at about 30 percent, which emphasizes that the pattern of inflationary growth which Lebanon has been pursuing for years, since before the war specifically, has become a pattern from which there is no turning back. It is not connected to a lack of security so much as to a group of dominant socio-economic structures whose bases have been implanted by the policies of big capital and government policies which have been mobilized in its service. While the lack of security has not prevented big capital from realizing fantastic profits in various sectors of the domestic economy, as is reflected in figures and indices, why should this lack of security prevent social groups whose scope is constantly expanding from receiving an honorable scrap of bread? It is understood, in situations like this, that the struggle for demands has been increasing, as has been happening for months (increasing labor strikes, threats to resort to strikes, sit-ins, demonstrations, festivals and movements on various levels), in preparation for a counter-attack which the damaged social classes will launch to stop the continuous deterioration in their living conditions and restore "balance between revenues from labor and revenues from capital" to a level which the current balance of political powers in the country will permit. There is thus no doubt that the success of the popular conference which the General Labor Federation has organized for the 25th of this month will constitute a basic criterion for the effectiveness of the counterattack which the damaged social classes will lead and organize against those who are in the vocation of starving the Lebanese people.

11887

CSO: 4802

LEBANON

ALGERIA SEEKS CHANGE IN TRADE AGREEMENT WITH LEBANON

Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 19 Mar 80 p 5

[Article: "Trade Balance Shows Surplus in Favor of Beirut; Algeria Calls for Amendment of Trade Agreement With Lebanon"]

[Text] The ministry of foreign and expatriates affairs has received a note from the Algerian ambassador to Lebanon in which the Algerian government asks for amendment of the trade agreement in effect between the two countries since 20 April 1967. The note points to the fact that trade relations--including procedures connected with the exportation of commodities from Lebanon to Algeria--deal mainly with trilateral trade, while Algeria prefers direct trade.

Algeria and Lebanon are bound by two agreements, the first pertaining to trade and the second pertaining to civil aviation. The civil aviation agreement was signed on 21 April 1970. The trade agreement currently in effect constitutes a sound framework for the promotion of exchange between the two countries. However, the joint committee formed under the provisions of the agreement has not held any meetings.

The volume of commercial exchange between the two countries is to the advantage of Lebanon, since the trade balance has registered a surplus in its favor:

Value of Lebanon's Trade With Algeria (in 1,000's of Lebanese pounds)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Exports</u>	<u>Imports</u>	<u>Balance in favor of Lebanon</u>
1970	1,102	10,018	8,916
1971	381	10,274	9,893
1972	773	11,898	11,125
1973	1,062	7,365	6,303
1977	146	351	205

[Data for years 1974-1976 not given]

Algerian statistics show a trade balance in Algeria's favor of 4.8 million Algerian dinars in 1974.

Commercial exchange in Algerian dinars is as follows:

Value of Algeria's Trade With Lebanon
(in Algerian dinars)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Imports</u>	<u>Exports</u>	<u>Balance</u>
1970	20,572,066	1,955,703	-18,616,363
1971	14,012,229	6,808,411	- 7,203,816
1972	20,229,408	942,780	-19,286,628
1973	28,708,300	2,034,819	-26,403,481
1974	13,786,526	18,615,259	+ 4,828,733
1975	6,679,002	1,122,623	- 5,556,379
1976	3,425,634	62,571	- 3,363,063
1977	11,381,880	1,097,109	-10,284,779
1978	6,320,329	2,616,607	- 4,303,922

[There are apparent errors in 1973 and 1978 data]

The commodities which Lebanon imports from Algeria are tripe, petroleum gases, gaseous hydrocarbons, liquefied ammonia gas and fertilizer. Lebanon's exports to Algeria are lentils, nonalcoholic beverages, books and printed materials, quilts and blankets, materials used in brakes, aluminum sheets, machinery and equipment, and vehicles with dump beds (dumpers).

8591

CSO: 4802

FRUIT EXPORTS FOR 1979 NEAR PRE-WAR LEVEL

Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 16 Mar 80 p 5

[Article: "Fruit Exports for 1979: 333,000 Tons, Half of It Citrus"]

[Text] According to statistics of the Fruit Bureau, Lebanese fruit exports amounted to 333,071 tons last year as compared to the 338,119 tons exported in 1974, the last year before the troubles began. In other words, last year's exports were only 1.5 percent less than those of 1974. With regard to the varieties of fruits exported, it will be noted that apple exports were 42,000 tons lower in 1979 than in 1974, and orange exports were down 23,000 tons over the same period. However, this drop was compensated by increases in exports of grapefruits, grapes, apricots, plums, al-janarik [small tart fruit] and peaches. Exports of apples represented 23.7 percent of all fruit exports, while citrus fruits (oranges, tangerines, limes and grapefruits) represented 53.7 percent.

Here is a comparison of fruit exports for 1974 and 1979 (figures in tons):

<u>Type</u>	<u>1974 (tons)</u>	<u>1979 (tons)</u>
Apples	121,291	79,354
Oranges	140,697	117,250
Tangerine Varieties	6,517	21,824
Limes	36,820	29,830
Grapefruits	2,520	10,345
Bananas	2,393	709
Pears	6,123	7,358
Grapes	10,478	23,842
Loquat	2,159	2,562
Cherries	1,044	6,022
Apricots	1,201	12,627
Plums and Janarik	2,493	9,242
Peaches	2,401	8,545
Pomegranites	128	427
Quinces	1,402	1,548
Other Fruits	452	1,586
Totals	338,119	333,071

8591

CSO: 4802

LEBANON

NINE PERSONS DIE FROM SPOILED BREAD

Beirut AL-NIDA' in Arabic 13 Mar 80 p 1

[Article: "Spoiled Flour Kills Nine Persons in Akrum; State Arrived a Day Late, Was Content With Visit!"]

[Text] The scandal of spoiled flour in the north reached the proportions of a tragedy two evenings ago.

Nine inhabitants of the town of Akrum on Lebanon's northern border with Syria met their death and dozens were taken to hospitals in Homs due to food poisoning caused by the consumption of bread made from spoiled flour.

The food poisoning incident occurred the evening before last, the townspeople could find no other way to help the victims except by carrying them to hospitals in Homs after the assistance requested from the official agencies failed to arrive until yesterday morning.

Nine of the victims, including two children, died immediately as a result of the poisoning. The known among the dead were: Khalid Muhammad Hasan and his wife, Husayn al-Shaykh, Fadiya Khadr Hasan, Nabil Sa'd-al-Din (4 years old), 'Abd Fallah Tahu (8 years old), and Fadiya Muhammad Hasan (36 years old).

The surviving victims, who number about 50 persons, include one individual by the name of Khadr Muhammad who is still in critical condition. Meanwhile, the dozens of other townspeople who were able to survive the ordeal are still under medical observation.

Medical sources said that the mass poisoning incident may have been caused by consumption of bread made from spoiled flour. Security and health organizations have undertaken to open an investigation of the incident and conduct an inquiry to determine its causes.

The Official Story of the Incident

For its part, the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY mentioned the poisoning incident in the town of Akrum. It brought out the efforts of the Military Health

Administration medical team "to save the townspeople" without touching on the proportions assumed by an incident such as this, which poses a danger that is not confined to a few dozen townspeople but could extend to other northern villages, as well.

The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY gave the following report:

"This morning (yesterday), a medical team from the Military Health Administration composed of two doctors and four medical assistants traveled by military patrol [helicopter] from Beirut to the town of Akrum to conduct a mission to save some of the inhabitants of the town who had been exposed to poisoning from flour. The [helicopter] was unable to land at the town until 0900 due to difficult weather conditions. The medical team immediately began to examine the victims, who numbered some 30 persons, and perform the necessary first aid and treatment to save them.

"Nine of the townspeople died as a result of the poisoning prior to the arrival of the rescue team..."

8591

CSO: 4802

LEBANON

WHEAT AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH CANADA

Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 18 Mar 80 p 7

[Article: "Al-Marhabi Signs One Copy of Canadian Wheat Agreement"]

[Text] Minister of Economy and Trade Talal al-Marhabi has signed one copy of an agreement on Canadian wheat between Lebanon and Canada. This was the copy which had been signed by the Canadian ambassador to Lebanon. The Lebanese minister informed a representative of AGRO, the Canadian wheat office in Lebanon, that the signing of the remaining copies would be conditional on an increase in the guarantee from L10,000 to L100,000.

Mr al-Marhabi made two remarks about the agreement aside from the matter of the guarantee. The first pertained to setting the current price of the seller according to the Chicago exchange rather than the Winnipeg exchange, while the second pertained to the possibility of shipping by local companies.

The agreement stipulates that the Canadian wheat office in Lebanon is to provide a minimum of 150,000 tons and a maximum of 200,000 tons of wheat per year for a period of 5 years, under conditions in which a maximum ceiling price is stipulated on an annual basis, while the actual price remains at the option of the Lebanese grain office. The office can fix the price either for an individual shipment or for a period of a year.

The ceiling price is to be set in October of each year to go into effect in the following year.

It can be noted from tables prepared by the Office of Grains and Sugar Beets, showing the trend of prices during past years, that the price of Canadian wheat has been below the prices of European or American wheat, despite the fact that Canadian wheat is of the hard variety while the other types are either soft or semi-hard.

The price of a ton of Canadian wheat C.I.F. Beirut has changed from L317.81 in 1973, to L526.66 in 1974, to L448.26 in 1975, to L604.24 in 1976, to L386.21 in 1978, to L589.31 in 1979.

The price of a ton of American wheat has changed as follows:

Soft wheat: L370.46 in 1973; L394.62 in 1975; and L412.46 in 1976.

Semi-hard wheat: L549.32, L546.13 and L530.71 in 1973 (three transactions took place); L520.38 in 1975; L345.46 in 1977; L478.55 in 1978; and L660 in 1979.

The prices of Australian wheat have changed as follows: Hard wheat was L297.63 in 1973 and semi-hard was L607.81 in 1974. The price of soft wheat fluctuated from L546.03 to L331.78 to L506.93 during 1975.

As is generally known, the blend of wheat used in Lebanon contains 60 percent hard Canadian wheat, 20 percent soft wheat and 20 percent semi-hard wheat.

8591

CSO: 4802

BRIEFS

ARMENIANS URGE NATIONAL UNITY--The Grouping of Armenian Political Organizations in Lebanon has declared its support for the principles of national unity and has appealed to the authorities for rapid implementation of these principles. This position was announced in a statement which came out of a meeting of the grouping yesterday morning. Following is a text of the statement: "The Grouping of Armenian Political Organizations in Lebanon affirms with deep confidence that the speech of President Ilyas Sarkis concerning the principles of national unity and the 14 points issued by the Council of Ministers represent a sound point of departure aimed at extricating the nation from its painful ordeal. The Armenians of Lebanon resolutely support the national unity plan put forward by the legal authorities and appeal for the complete and rapid implementation of these principles. In this framework, the grouping declares its readiness to participate with all its capabilities in the achievement of national unity in order to completely reunify and rebuild our nation." [Text] [Beirut AL-NIDA' in Arabic 14 Mar 80 p 2] 8591

URGENT LAWS PRESENTED--Before the process of electing parliamentary committees began, Chairman Kamil al-As'ad requested that the bill of the draft laws received by the government be read out in an urgent manner so that the legal 40-day period for their approval could begin. The drafts are:

1. Draft of the urgent law presented by Decree 2565, aimed at establishing 20,000 housing units in all Lebanese areas.
2. Draft of the urgent law aimed at establishing Ministry of Housing and Cooperatives supply centers.
3. Draft of an urgent law modifying the text of Article 627 of the Conduct Law.
4. The draft of an urgent law included in Decree No 2676 requiring that expenditures be made on the 12-point basis.
5. The draft of a most urgent law to continue the functions of the School Council in free private schools until further notice.
6. The draft of an urgent law requiring that the ministry's name be changed to Ministry of Post, Telephone and Telegraph.
7. The draft of an urgent law aimed at settling the circumstances of certain judges.
8. The draft of an urgent law to make it legal to conclude an agreement organizing the "transit" office between Arab League nations.
9. The draft of an urgent law requiring that the provisions related to the increase in school instalments and duties in private schools which are not free be modified.
10. Draft of an urgent law aimed at giving Belgian government financial aid to the government of the Republic of Lebanon. /Text/ [Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 19 Mar 80 p 3] 11887

BEN SEDDIK PRESENTS REPORT TO UMT CONGRESS

Casablanca L'AVANT-GARDE in French 29 Mar 80 pp 12, 3

[Text] Like all those which preceded it, the Sixth National Congress of the UMT [Moroccan Labor Federation] was held under exceptional circumstances on 23, 24 and 25 March 1979 [as published].

A profound sense of uneasiness is dominating the nation's life.

The distinct feeling of finding itself again at an impasse is gripping the country.

Everyone is talking about the crisis. The horizon is darkened with somber forebodings.

The artificial political life seems to be looking for an extra dose of spirit.

The "democratic process" seems more and more like foam on the crest of the waves.

There are rumblings of discontent. Those in power are blundering and using more expedencies.

The reassuring talk about the fleeting nature of the crisis is not assuaging people or convincing them.

The invocations on the world situation convey the sense more of a value judgment than of an explanation; they do more to prove the degree of the country's dependence than not to excuse the policy that has been followed.

After compiling the dreary balance sheet of the policy followed and the anti-popular choices which succeeded it, Comrade Mahjoub Ben Seddik, in the moral report presented to members of Congress, stated the alternative which we must use in order to remove the country from its economic, political and social impasse, and also cited the specific aims which lend themselves to such involvement.

The Alternative

Painted thus, in sweeping strokes, the balance sheet of our activity since the last national congress, both domestic and foreign, will allow our militants to evaluate their activity.

"Not so much to record the positive aspects.

"Not so much to note with satisfaction the increase in capital for our organization's struggle, our militants' ever growing combativeness and their undying fidelity to their organization's principles.

"But it is above all to take stock of weaknesses and deficiencies: in forming cadres of the working masses who are getting younger, more numerous and more combative all the time; at the training level; and the need for better news circulation.

"Because, to the extent that we can surmount the weaknesses and deficiencies, we will give a better response to the expectation of the workers whom we will raise up further to the historic mission of the Moroccan working class.

"Because if it is our duty every day to wage an ardent and difficult struggle to improve intolerable working conditions, we know for a fact that it is a trap to try to hope for qualitative changes in those conditions in the framework of available options and the policies imposed upon us.

"That is why, at the price of necessary sacrifices, we have said no to neocolonial dependence. We have been able to say no to the overwhelming majority of citizens' being ruined by a minority of the privileged, who are the only ones profiting from independence, while they act as a relay to neocolonial domination.

"We have said no to the falsification of the people's will and to formal democracy, which rules out any possibility for options, and which does nothing but legalize a state of misery, injustice and exploitation.

"We have said no to the satellization of our country's foreign policy.

"In so doing, we have opted for the path of liberation.

"We have opted for the path of noncapitalist development.

"We have opted for genuine democracy advocating the abolition of exploitation by a privileged minority of the overwhelming majority of citizens.

"We have opted for the unity of all our people's vital forces to serve the edification and consolidation of national independence, and the advent of a just and prosperous society.

"The serious impasse at which our country finds itself today is proof once again that there is no salvation outside of people's options.

"The failure of the 'process,' clearly or implicitly proclaimed by the same people who participated in and took advantage of it, proves once again that our positions are just.

"But we know that the justness of the positions is not enough to make them triumph; we know that the movement of history is not enough in itself to surmount the impasses. Countries cannot be made into theaters and people into spectators.

"Only aware, organized and responsible actions pay.

"They imply specific objectives and clear perspectives.

"They imply unity among all forces for change.

Precise Objectives

"We at UMT refuse to yield to fatalism and defeatism. We believe that an exciting alternative is possible.

"We continue to hold strongly that it is possible to bring Morocco out of its impasse by becoming deeply involved in the path of liberation, governed by the people's options.

"That implies:

- 1) A government mindfully enjoying the support and confidence of the working masses;
- 2) A constitutional revision allowing the establishment of a government that is truly responsible to the parliament;
- 3) Free elections after objective and subjective conditions have been met, so that the masses can effectively decide on their options; and
- 4) The government of the country for which the majority is responsible, and in accordance with the majority's program.

"We think that such perspectives will, of their nature, liberate the people's dynamics and mobilize all creative energies.

"They call for the mobilization and organization of young people, the deprived masses from the countries and cities. They call for an aware and responsible political involvement.

"We think at the UMT, however, that the organization of workers, in the union framework, based on unity, independence, and union democracy, constitutes a decisive contribution to the youths' activity.

"We remain strongly convinced that united, organized, aware and responsible workers, along with the deprived masses, youth, students, revolutionary intellectuals and all the forces for change will be able to forge the arm of victory, to carry out the changes that our people call for with their most eager hearts.

9475

CSO: 4400

ENERGY, MINING RESEARCH MINISTER ON ENERGY PLANS

Casablanca LA VIE ECONOMIQUE in French 28 Mar 80 pp 1, 3

[Text] Last week, Shell Morocco organized its Energy Information Days, which were marked by Mr Moussa Saadi's [minister of energy and mining research] noteworthy account of Morocco's energy policy. We have here the main part, which focuses on the course of action which Morocco is taking in confronting the energy problem, with present consumption being 4.6 million tons of oil and its equivalent.

This course of action, the minister said, will follow along these objectives: oil and gas, bituminous schists, hydroelectricity, coal, nuclear energy, and new sources of energy, especially solar energy.

"Oil represents 82 percent of our energy consumption. With almost all of it imported, it will require spending more than 5 billion dirhams in 1980, or more than one-third of the total cost of our imports, while in 1976 it was only 4.5 percent.

"Faced with these figures, it is urgent and fundamental that we:

--limit as much as possible our reliance on that source of energy, by substituting other potential forms of energy and by fighting waste.

--assign a high priority to oil research, with a discovery in this area likely to completely change the circumstances of our economy.

"Several projects are presently being undertaken in this direction, either using the country's own means via the Office of Research and Mining Participation (BPRM) or in conjunction with foreign associates. Several favorable sedimentary basins are currently the subject of intensive prospecting, on land as well as on sea. Morocco possesses two seaside facades which extend more than 3,000 km.

Bituminous Schists

"One of the most promising directions in Morocco is to profit from its bituminous schists, whose very dense beds form the bedrock of phosphate beds. Under these conditions, it is not surprising that our country, which has three-fourths of the world's phosphate reserves, is likewise well-stocked with bituminous schists. Two important deposits (at Timahdit and Tarfaya) have already been the subject of geological mining expeditions and important technology. A detailed account on this subject is on the agenda for these Information Days.

Uranium

"The year 1980 will see a decision by the Moroccan Phosphate Office (OCP) on the construction of one or two mines for phosphoric acid uranium. Production would normally start three years later.

"Along with that, prospecting of the classic types of uranium seams is being carried on by the BRPM in the most favorable areas, where evidence of successful mining efforts has already been seen.

Hydroelectricity

"Hydroelectricity, which currently represents 10 percent of national energy consumption, can be developed further, given the number of streams in the country, barely a third or fourth of whose energy potential is today being tapped. This hydroelectric potential is estimated to be 4.5 billion kWh. They plan to develop all the remaining potential from now until the year 2000, with large scale projects as well as small hydroelectric systems.

The last big dam to date, at Al Massira, was opened by his majesty, King Hassan II, on the 13th of this month.

"It is second to the one at Afourer, with an average yearly production of 330 million kWh. It will allow us to save 80,000 tons of fuel per year, or 6 billion centimes. The power station, with a cost of 26 billion, will thus pay for itself in less than five years.

Coal production

"Today coal represents about 10 percent on our country's energy balance sheet. It is produced at Jerada at the rate of 750,000 tons per annum. Equipment for a new site is getting ready to increase that production. Research likewise is being done with a view toward determining how far the deposits extend under the high plateaus.

"Together with this, and considering the product's competitiveness, even when imported, in relation to oil, public officials are encouraging its consumption in uses or reconversion, when it does not prove to be too costly. This is the case in the cement industries, in electricity production in certain thermal power stations, and in sugar refineries, as sectors which are called upon for continuous development in our country.

Solar Energy

Geographically situated in a zone near the tropics, and benefiting from a maximum of warmth, especially in the south, Morocco has in no way ignored the use of solar energy. That will be one of the principal missions of the new center for the development of renewable energy sources begun at Marrakech.

"As for the private sector, it has already accomplished effective work in this area, with many companies involved, especially in Casablanca, in the manufacture of solar frames. Likewise, there are plans for the use of this energy to pump water. Many pilot units will be installed in many Moroccan provinces to serve as models for the users.

Other uses like drying farm products or selected minerals, such as phosphate, will also be studied.

"Under consideration is the joint promulgation of incentives both for users and manufacturers of solar equipment and new energy sources in general.

"In addition, the minister of energy and mining research plans to encourage the use of these energies in public buildings, and the generation of electricity to answer the needs of distant consumption centers, especially in the Saharan provinces.

Biomass and Wind

"Moreover, the center for the development of renewable energy sources will be interested in other possibilities such as those relating to biomass (using the alcohol by-product of the sugar industry, alfalfa combustion for the production of electricity) and wind energy, especially in areas where there is a larger amount of wind, such as Essaouira, Tanger, Nador and Tan Tan.

9475

CSO: 4400

ALI YATA REBUTS FRENCH COMMUNISTS ON MILITARY AID

Casablanca AL-BAYANE in French 28 Mar 80 p 1

[Editorial by Ali Yata; "Be Reassured, French Comrades"]

[Excerpts] Many questions have been asked of the French Government, at the parliamentary level, about an alleged presence of French soldiers in Moroccan Occidental Sahara. These questions are coming from socialist and communist deputies.

Comrade Christian Pierret, in the name of the socialist group, "calls the attention of the minister of foreign affairs to a French military presence in Occidental Sahara. He asks him if, according to certain reports, it is true that French soldiers or military advisers are being stationed in Occidental Sahara and if, given this hypothesis, this military French presence does not support the Moroccan theory."

With the exception of some words, we find the same idea also in the demands formulated by Comrades Louis Odru and Maxime Gremetz, in the name of the communist group.

The French foreign affairs minister answered these questions in advance by denying any French military presence in the Saharan provinces of Morocco. The Moroccan authorities did so also and, had the situation been otherwise, it would have been found out, because nothing is kept hidden these days.

[Excerpt] It is not impossible that foreign technicians are educating Moroccans in the use of the arms which their country is purchasing in order to protect their territory's integrity. If that were confirmed, there would be nothing irregular, illegal or blameworthy about it. No country, except for the industrial powers which manufacture and sell the arms, can escape that rule. How do you think Algerian and Libyan pilots are trained? What about their tank companions and the men operating land-air and land-land missiles? Who teaches guerilla warfare to the Moroccan aggressors stationed in Algeria? Can the leaders of Algeria and Tripoli get along with foreign, perhaps even French, military technicians in their armies and on their soil?

It is no use giving answers to these questions. We know what they are.

Under these conditions, we can only regret that the comrades of the French left have fallen into the trap of anti-Moroccan propaganda and have taken at face value the lies and slanders aimed at defiling the Moroccan people's noble struggle for liberty and territorial unity.

We also have the right to suspect their sincerity when we reflect upon a certain disconcerting past.

We know in fact that French social democracy, whether the opposition or the party in power, has always supported the exploits of French colonialism, with the exception of some isolated individuals. This was also the case in Morocco and Algeria. Is it to try to make people forget that shameful behavior, or because of a guilty conscience, that today it is dead set against Morocco, while decolonialization has practically been completed, mainly thanks to the struggle and sacrifices of the colonists, including the Moroccans?

As for the French communists, it is only fair to pay homage to the support they have always lent to peoples subjugated by the imperialism in their countries. But we cannot forget their weaknesses, their errors, the mistakes which they committed on the colonial question, for which the people of the "French Empire" and its vanguard paid dearly, especially in Maghreb.

The approach which the French communists are making to the issue of Moroccan unity is in the same vein. Their mistake was in aligning themselves with the hegemonistic positions of the Algerian government. They are finding themselves going along with Qadhdhafi's adventurist ones.

We do not give up all hope of seeing them undergo a self-criticism and proceed to a scientific analysis which will lead them to a just appreciation of the general evolution in Maghreb and of the Moroccan people's struggle for independence, progress, democracy and peace.

In any case, we wish to put them at ease, along with their socialist companions: the Moroccan people will never resort to French soldiers to safeguard their territorial unity.

9475

CSO: 4400

SOVIET-BACKED LEADERSHIP CHANGE SEEN AS POSSIBLE

Istanbul AYDINLIK in Turkish 24 Apr 80 p 3

[Commentary by Cigdem Komurcuoglu]

[Text] In 1978, 'Abd-al-Fattah Isma'il came to power in Southern Yemen through a bloody coup. Recently, it was announced that he had resigned. The reason provided for the resignation was very flimsy, of the type that we have become accustomed to encountering in such events: failing health. Yet the fact that Fattah Isma'il resigned not only from the Presidency, but from his position as Secretary General of the Party and from his place on the Supreme People's Council as well, shows that a leadership change has occurred in Southern Yemen, even if the general trend and dimensions of this change are not yet fully clear.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad, who replaced Fattah Isma'il, is known as a Soviet sympathizer. He was also one of the architects of the bloody coup, supported by Moscow, which overthrew Hobaya 'Ali in 1978. However, the tense situation in the Middle East following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and the sharpened conflicts between Moscow and the Muslim nations, prompt one to ask whether a new Anin incident is brewing.

Following the coup which occurred in 1978, Southern Yemen became a nation which has been likened to a Soviet aircraft carrier in the Middle East. In fact, the nations of the region began to look upon Southern Yemen as the Cuba of the Middle East. Southern Yemen was in a strategic position at the mouth of the Red Sea, controlled by the Soviets, who are desirous of moving into this petroleum-rich region.

Moscow, which controls Ethiopia at the other side of the Red Sea, thus acquired great power in the region after invading Afghanistan, having formed thereby the triangle of Ethiopia, Southern Yemen, and Afghanistan; a triangle which circumscribes the petroleum region.

Consequently, the open manifestation of the Soviet strategy to move southwards has increased the area's anxiety vis-a-vis Southern Yemen, which the Gulf States see as the Soviets' mercenary military outpost in the region. This development has led to Southern Yemen's virtual isolation among the Arab states. In particular, the basic cause of the rapprochement which has developed in recent years between Saudi Arabia and Iraq has been the suspicion they hold toward the goals of the Soviet Union, which it hopes to realize in this region by utilizing Southern Yemen.

In addition to its isolation from the other Arab states, it is becoming increasingly difficult for a small nation such as Southern Yemen to satisfy the demands of a nation such as the Soviet Union, which is endeavoring to establish a world-wide hegemony. Southern Yemen is a poor country. As the aggressiveness of the Soviet Union grows, the contradiction between the needs of Southern Yemen and the adventurist demands of Moscow becomes increasingly intense. Last year, Moscow incited Southern Yemen to a war against Northern Yemen. It is also urging aggression against Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman. These are all dealings that will cost Southern Yemen dearly. At any rate, what Southern Yemen needs is economic assistance and reconciliation with the Arab World.

This state of affairs has given rise to disputes within the Southern Yemeni ruling group. Apparently, the following differences exist between Pattah Isma'il and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad: 'Ali Nasir Muhammad is known as a more conciliatory individual. Furthermore, although Pattah Isma'il favors the total domination of the Soviet-aligned party in power, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad wants the ruling party to be somewhat more diversified. In addition, it is said that 'Ali Nasir Muhammad favors the establishment of closer relations with Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman at the same time that close relations with the Soviet Union are being continued.

The Soviet occupation of Afghanistan has been a turning point which has led to realignment throughout the world, and even to differences and disagreements among those nations which are intimately bound up with the Soviet Union. Even if it is still somewhat premature to arrive at definite conclusions regarding the power change in Southern Yemen, it may not be such a remote possibility that a new Amin incident may be in the offing.

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CLOSER RELATIONS WITH PRC ENCOURAGED

Bourguiba Praises Relations

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 20 Mar 80 p 4

[Text] Yesterday, at 12:40 pm in the White Room of the Carthage Palace, President Bourguiba received Mrs Chen Muhua, vice premier of the State Council from the People's Republic of China and the delegation which is accompanying her on her visit to Tunisia.

The audience took place in a very cordial atmosphere, with Dr Sadok Mokaddem, president of the National Assembly; Mohamed Mzali, minister of national education, who is responsible for coordinating governmental action with the president of the republic; Slaheddine Baly, minister of justice; Mohamed Sayah, party leader and minister delegate attached to the prime minister; and Rachid Sfar, minister of national defense; Mrs Fathia Mzali, member of the Politburo and president of the National Women's Union in Tunisia; Abdelmajid Karoui, director of protocol, and ambassadors from both countries in attendance.

On that occasion, President Bourguiba and the Chinese vice-premier held a cordial conversation, during which the head of state praised the excellence of Tunisian-Chinese relations and the continuing development of cooperation between the two countries in various areas.

Then the Supreme Combatant called to mind the work he has accomplished since the beginning of independence, for the emancipation of women by promulgating the code for the personal status of women which defines the rights and duties of women, and which encourages them to contribute to the creation of a modern Tunisian society and to the consolidation of the foundations of the regime.

For her part, Mrs Chen Muhua praised the progress made by Tunisia under Bourguiba's regime, pointing out the various similarities between Tunisia and the People's Republic of China, in their intention to create a sound society and in their positions regarding broad international problems.

At the end of the conversation, President Bourguiba accompanied his guest on a tour of the various pavilions of the Carthage Palace, showing her photographs illustrating the struggle of the Supreme Combatant.

The head of state and Mrs Wassila Bourguiba then gave a luncheon in honor of Mrs Chen Muhua and the Chinese delegation. Also invited to the luncheon were the persons who were present at the audience, including several of their spouses. Mrs Naila Ben Ammar and Mohmoud Belhassine also attended this luncheon.

After the luncheon, the head of state and Mrs Wassila Bourguiba posed for a souvenir photograph with Mrs Chen Muhua and the Chinese delegation.

It should be noted that President Bourguiba received Mohamed Fitouri, minister of foreign affairs, beforehand.

International Political Questions Examined

Tunisia LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 20 Mar 80 p 4

[Text] A Tunisian-Chinese working meeting, presided over by Mohamed Fitouri, minister of foreign affairs, and Mrs Chen Muhua, vice premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, was held, yesterday morning, in the offices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Among others, those in attendance at this meeting representing Tunisia were Taieb Sahbanj, secretary-general in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ahmed Ben Arfa, general manager of international cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mohamed El Memmi, Tunisian ambassador to Peking; Anouar Berraies, principal private secretary to the minister of foreign affairs, and Mohamed Lassi, head of the Asian Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and representing China were Hy Ying, vice minister of foreign affairs, Cheng Fej, vice minister for Foreign Economic Relations, and Tsui Tsien, Chinese ambassador to Paris.

On that occasion, both parties engaged in a constructive conversation which covered bilateral relations and the investigation of points of view of both countries on the broad international political questions.

Earlier, Mohamed Fitouri and Mrs Chen Muhua held a conversation in the presence of delegations from both parties.

Broad Horizons in Cooperation

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 20 Mar 80 p 4

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, at Party Headquarters in the Kasbah, the Chinese delegation, led by Mrs Chen Muhua, vice premier of the State

Council of the People's Republic of China, which is currently visiting Tunisia, held a working meeting with a delegation from the PSD [Destourian Socialist Party] led by Mohamed Sayah, minister delegate attached to the prime minister and leader of the Destourian Socialist Party. In attendance, among others, was Fouad Mebazaa, member of the Politburo, minister of information and culture, and president of the Tunisian-Chinese Friendship Association.

After having welcomed Mrs Chen Muhua and the delegation accompanying her, Mr Sayah said that he is convinced that this visit will not fail to contribute to the strengthening of already excellent relations between the two countries and the two parties. "As President Habib Bourguiba made clear this morning, our countries have many things in common," continued Mr Sayah, "first of all, we have parties, yours and ours, which are founded on the people and which have had to carry on a continuing and victorious struggle. Next, we have a common policy of independence and a firm wish for advancement." Mr Sayah said again, "These motives open up broad horizons for cooperation between our two countries and our two parties."

After being congratulated for the cooperation, which is very profitable to Tunisia, and which is in existence at the present time between the two countries, Mr Sayah repeated his thanks for the aid furnished by China to Tunisia in various areas. The party leader also expressed the hope that exchanges of delegations will increase between the two parties so as to further strengthen the ties which bind them.

On another subject, Mr Sayah stressed the attachment of both countries to the same ideals of peace and independence and their common wish to struggle against all forces of hegemony. "Through the network of friendship which she has undertaken to establish throughout the world, especially with the People's Republic of China," said the leader of the DSP, "Tunisia, in spite of its modest geographical size, is striving to make its contribution toward strengthening peace and friendship among nations. Be assured that in all our encounters this spirit of sincere friendship and this wish to be effective will prevail, so that our common ideals of independence, of sovereignty and of progress will triumph," concluded Mr Sayah, in paying homage to the wisdom, the courage and the clear-sightedness of the Chinese leaders.

For her part, Mrs Chen Muhua first of all expressed her sincere thanks to President Bourguiba, to the government and to the Tunisian people for the warm and friendly welcome given the Chinese.

She added, "Our talks have shown that on many problems, we share a common language, we have known the same conflict in the past, and today, we are confronted with the same tasks of development. We also have similar views concerning international problems. To accomplish these tasks, we must also help one another, and we must support one another in defending peace and in fighting against any hegemonistic tendencies, because

in one sense, the protection of independence is a more difficult struggle than achieving independence."

Mrs Chen Muhua also expressed the wish that her visit to Tunisia will be followed by an exchange of delegations which will strengthen the friendship between the two countries.

Mr. Ben Osman Meets With Mrs Chen Muhua

It should be noted that yesterday afternoon Mr Lassaad Ben Osman, minister of agriculture, received Mrs Chen Muhua and the delegation accompanying her on her visit to Tunisia, in his department's offices. The meeting, which took place in the presence of the ambassadors from both countries, concerned cooperation between Tunisia and the People's Republic of China in the field of agriculture, and particularly in the hydrology sector. On that occasion, Mr Ben Osman reported to his guest on the large "Mjerdah-Cap-Boh" canal project, which is presently underway, thanks to technical and financial assistance from the People's Republic of China. This project is considered to be one of the greatest hydrological accomplishments in Tunisia. The meeting also concerned perspectives for technical cooperation between the two countries.

Mohamed Ennaceur in Peking

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 21 Mar 80 p 4

[Text] Mr Mohamed Ennaceur, minister of social affairs and special envoy from President Bourguiba to Peking, was the guest Wednesday evening at a dinner given in his honor by Mr Ji Pengfei, vice premier of China.

In the toast which he delivered on that occasion, Mr Ji Pengfei asked the Arab nations to consider the interests of the entire Near East and to strengthen their unity so that they may rapidly realize their national aspirations.

The Chinese vice premier continued, "We have always said that the only just and total solution to the Near Eastern question was that the Arab nations recover their lost territories, and that the Palestinian people recover their national rights, including the right to build their own country."

For his part, Mr Mohamed Ennaceur stated that the Tunisian nation was determined to protect, at any cost, its dignity and its national sovereignty.

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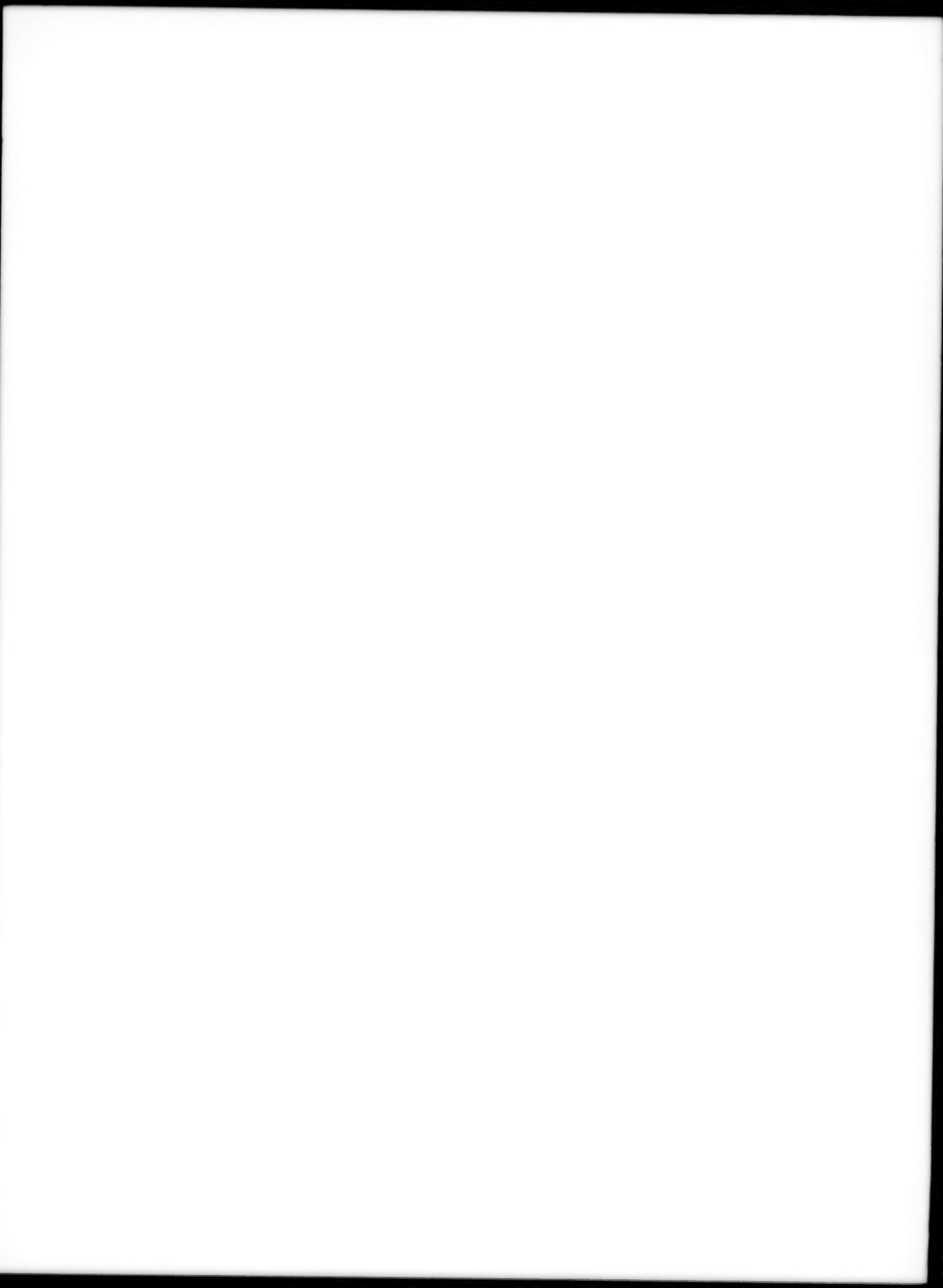
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